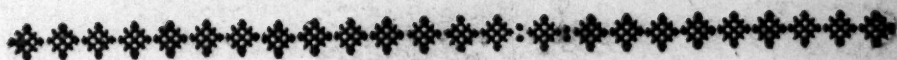
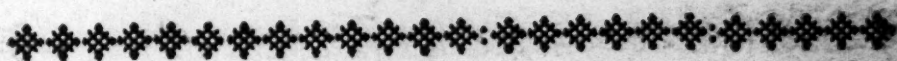


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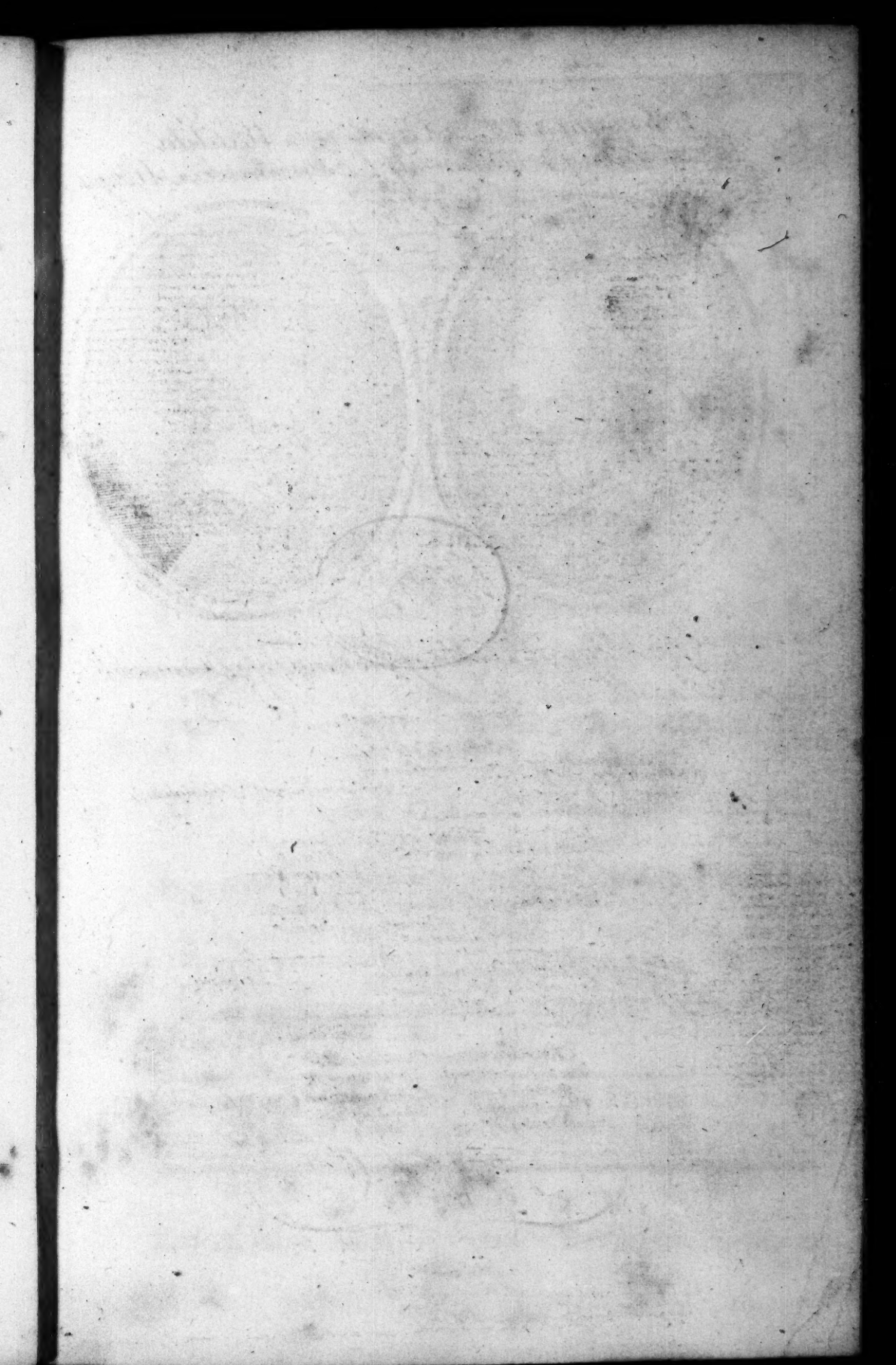
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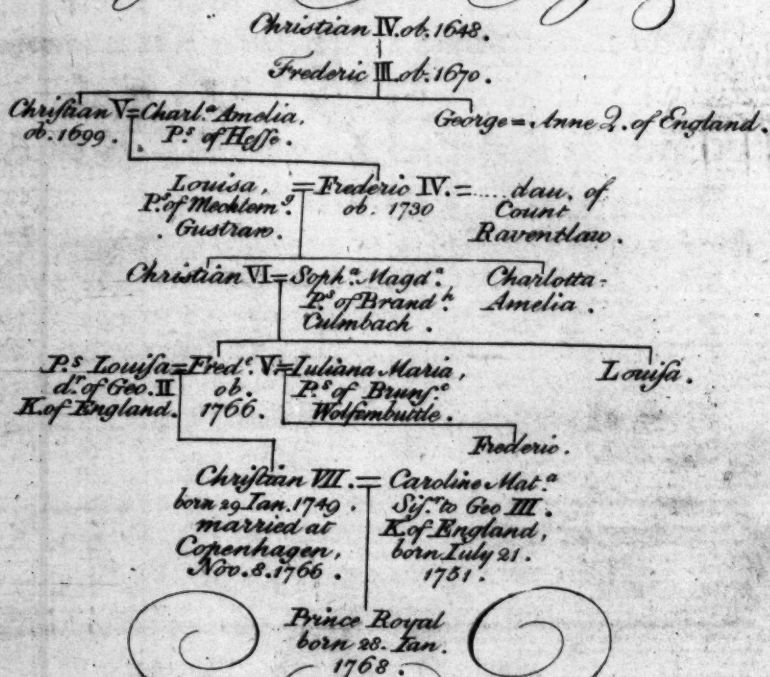
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*Christian VII. & Caroline Matilda,
crowned King & Queen of Denmark, May 1,
1767.*



Genealogical Table of the Kings of Denmark.



**A N
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A N C I E N T A N D M O D E R N.

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O F
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INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

THE Danes, as all the neighbouring nations migrating from the east, were by the very order of such migration, disposed to a kind of government amongst themselves, which seems naturally to have ensued, from the object in view, the obtaining a convenient and independent settlement, where it was in such migration to be found; and as leaders in such case were absolutely necessary, it was equally requisite that such leaders should be selected from the most wise and valiant, the supreme of such in course became a kind of Princes, the second rank a sort of Nobility, and the third, the body of the people, who reserved in themselves the full power of electing or displacing the others, as appeared requisite to the common welfare; to concur with them in the forming of salutary laws, and in preserving a due obedience to them when made.

x INTRODUCTION.

This was true social liberty, just power, happy prerogative. The mind of man could extend no farther; in this the earliest ages instructed us to live like reasonable creatures, secure from fraud, imposition, licentiousness or tyranny; and so situate were the Danes, until something more than one century past, they of a sudden became intoxicated with happiness, and by a kind of fascination, that has no parallel in history, they of themselves, of their own meer motion, without any kind of violence that might even intimate subjugation, put the yoke on their own necks, and from as free a people as ever subsisted, supplicated to be made slaves, and perhaps the most absolutely so of any that ever existed.

There was no doubt some secret arts used to bring about this unexampled resolution, of which more shall be said in due place; when in the course of this little Treatise, in order of time we come to that unhappy crisis, so much being only intimated here to prepare the British reader to seriously consider, when he arrives at that period, how near himself may be to the brink of that dangerous precipice, and at the same time to remember, that a defect of moral rectitude in the people, is as true a road to slavery, as either art to seduce, or violence to compel; it being but
too

too true, that when the mind of man is once debased by sordid and absurd passions, the glory of his nature becomes extinct, and nine-tenths of his way paved to indigence and misery.

I shall here quit these melancholy reflections, but I hope not without their having some proper effect; we are now to see the history of a people, that so far as arms may be esteemed glorious, have shone in as bright a sphere, as any nation under the heavens, tho' not with the same advantage of literary fame as the Romans; tho' until they had over-ran Greece, and thence deduced their letters and learning, nothing more can be made of their history, than that they went, saw and conquered; nor are we informed of any other important particulars, than that their success was founded on valour and virtue, which virtue was a steady adherence to the love of their country, and a singular contempt of wealth and power; so Cincinnatus left his plough with regret to head an army, conquered and returned with pleasure to his plough again; and so it probably was with the Danes for many ages, as may better be concluded from their surprising successes, than from any thing to be depended upon clear and explanatory. I have therefore past over a number of regal periods, to come at that part of their history, which is better established and ascertained, as it is only most generally

agreed, that antecedent to the æra of their first Christian King, Britain, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Jütland, &c. were subjected to the glory of their arms; Rome in the zenith of its power had felt the force of their superior courage, and the more southern parts of Europe been covered with their armies; nor does it seem more to the purpose to pretend consigning the origin of these gallant people, nor from what part of the east they primarily migrated so far northward; or whether they derive as Danes from one of their prime leaders, or as from the banks, or perhaps sources of the Danube, as to some seem more probable, but is all meer conjecture, and there I shall leave it.

A succinct State of the REGALITY, antecedent to the Christian Æra 981.

The Danish Historians commence their monarchy in the year before Christ, 1038, from which commencement to 981 after Christ is 2019 years, in which space they compute sixty-six Kings, and by this account each King must reign on the common average more than thirty years. I know not from whence they deduce their authority, but they say, that in the said year 1038, A. C. their first Prince Dan began his reign, that he was a native of Zealand, and his father sovereign of the country,

or

or of principal note or distinction amongst the people. That Dan reigned forty years, was an excellent Prince, and founder of the Danish monarchy.

Whatever might be the origin of this monarchy, or when it commenced, there is no deducing down the sequent 65 reigns with any tolerable appearance of truth and certainty; however, there may be a probability in one particular circumstance, which is, that the Danes have been in a state of warfare, tho' not happily elucidated, from very early times, as may be better recounted from our own histories, than from Saxo Gramaticus, or any Danish records, which make nothing of conquering Britain, when they had barely got footing in any part of the country.

They tell you, that Dan was succeeded by Humble, him deposed by Lothar, and him again by Skioldo. That he slew a wild boar, beat the Saxons, and dying advanced in years, was succeeded by his son Gram, who is said to have conquered Sweden, lost his life by the hands of Suibdager, the King of Norway, who by that means obtained the crown of Denmark and Sweden, and annexed them to Norway.

Suib dagger, ante C. 856, disposed of Denmark as tributary to Guthrom, the son of Gram, and of Sweden to his own son Asmond, and was soon after slain in a sea fight by Hadding, the second son of Gram.

Guthrom had but a short reign, and was succeeded by his brother Hedding, whose exploits in Sweden, Jutland, Courland, Saxony and Britain, being too many and obscure to recount, were concluded by suicide in the presence of his nobility, 761. Frotho his son obtained the crown, and conquered Sleswic, Ruffia, Pomerania, Holstein, &c. He attacked Britain, seized on London by a stratagem, and entering on a War with Sweden was slain in battle, 685.

Haldane, his eldest son, succeeded him, murdered his two brothers, and died of old age. His sons Roe and Helgo, jointly became his successors; they built the city of Roschild, framed a system of laws, and having engaged in a war with Sweden, Roe was slain in battle, Helgo put an end to his own life; and Rolfo his son succeeded him 566; he engaged in a war with Sweden, slew the King in battle, and was slain by treachery.

The States elected Hother, a prince of a distant branch; Hother was succeeded by his son Rorick, 483. Rorick by Viglet; Viglet by Guillach; Guillach by Vermund, 352. Vermund by Olaus, Olaus by Dan, Dan by Huglet, Huglet by Frotho, 172. Frotho, by Dan, Dan by Fridluf, Fridluf by Frotho, 37. Frotho by Hiarn. P. N. C. 16. *Hiarn obtained the Crown for being the best Poet in Denmark; an odd thought of a warlike people?* Hiarn was succeeded by Fridluf, Fridluf by Frotho, Frotho by Ingel, Ingel by Olaus, 102. Olaus by Frotho, Frotho by Haldane, Haldane by Haguin, Haguin by Siwald, Siwald by Sigar, 177. Sigar by Siwald, Siwald by Haldane, Haldane by Harold, Harold by Olaus, Olaus by Omund, 331. Omund by Siward, Siward by Bathul, Bathul by Jarmerci, Jarmerci by Broder, Broder by Siwald, Siwald by Snio, 383. *In this reign is supposed a migration of every ninth man by reason of a famine.*—Snio was succeeded by Biorno; here is a chasm in the Danish history of 298 years, when perhaps they invaded the distant territories of the Roman Empire. Gormon 52 King, 699, was succeeded by Gotrick, Gotrick by Olaus, Olaus by Hemming, Hemming by Siward and Ring, Siward by Reguer, invades England, is made captive by Hella, and dies in prison; is succeeded by Ivar, 836. Ivar by

xvi INTRODUCTION.

by Siward, Siward by Eric, Eric by Canute, Canute by Frotho, Frotho by Gormo, Gormo by Harold, Harold by Gormo, Gormo by Harold, 66. King, to whom, 981, succeeded Swain, as in the ensuing section, from the commencement of whose reign, literature then beginning to take place, we come to something a clearer light into the annals of Denmark.

THE

THE
H I S T O R Y
O F
D E N M A R K,
COMMENCING

*With SWAIN, the first Christian King, A. D.
981, to the Conclusion of the 12th Century.*

C H A P. I. S E C T. I.

THAT I may not be misunderstood in speaking of this Prince, as the first Christian King of Denmark, it is only intended, that he was the first educated from his childhood in the Christian Faith, and that all his successors, from that time, professed the same without deviation, which had not been the case of several of his ancestors; and it is only from this data, that the history of Denmark becomes clear and intelligible.

The prior part of this Prince's reign was remarkably unfortunate; his first warlike attempt

was against the inhabitants of Wollin, on the Oder, by whom he was thrice defeated, and at length taken prisoner, but redeemed on the payment of twice his weight of gold when full armed, in which predicament he seems to have been the people's favourite, in particular of the ladies, who redeemed him by the sale of their jewels, the which he afterwards very honourably recompenced.

He was next attacked by Eric, King of Sweden, defeated and drove out of Denmark, and sought an asylum in Norway, where Olaus reigned, whose father Haquin had been placed on that throne, by the father of Swain, and therefore expected from him an honourable reception, but not finding his expectation answered, he charged Olaus with ingratitude, who answered him well, that no ingratitude could equal his, who had robbed his own father of his crown and life, which had been truly the case of Swain.

His next application was to the King of England, but as in that he had no better success, he next addressed the King of Scotland, who received him kindly, where he continued about fourteen years, when hearing of Eric's death, he was, by the mediation of his protector, restored to his kingdom.

Being so restored, he resolved to attack Norway; the fleets of both nations engaged, Olaus was defeated,

defeated, and to prevent falling into the hands of Swain, he jumped into the sea and was drowned, and Norway became once more annexed to the crown of Denmark. He then attempted England, which concluded in a peace with Ethelred the Ild, the then regnant sovereign, and soon after died.

Swain was succeeded by Harold, his eldest son, who was soon after deposed. A. D. 1015, his younger son, Canute the great, ascended the throne, his first attempt was on England, but that remained undecided until the death of Ethelred, established him on the throne of that kingdom; and then having subdued Sweden and Norway, so far as to make them tributary kingdoms, he became the most renowned potentate in Europe; he restored the Emperor Conrade, after having been deposed from the imperial dignity, and then embarked for England, where he spent the remainder of his days.

Canute divided the monarchy between his three sons, to Harold the eldest he gave England, to Hardiknute his second, Denmark, and to Swain the youngest, Norway; but what became of Sweden doth not appear, and dying, left behind him a character worthy a great Prince, and well meriting imitation, 1036.

A. D. 1035. One year before his father's death Hardiknute entered on the supremacy of Den-

mark, and died 1041, in which interval but one circumstance of any note occurs, he fitted out a fleet to visit his mother Emma, then at Bruges, and there met the English ambassadors, who informed him of the death of Harold, and thereupon set out to take possession of that crown.

In consequence of a compact, Magnus, King of Norway, succeeded Hardiknute to the crown of Denmark, and to which he was accordingly elected.

At this time Edward the Confessor, of the Saxon line, obtained the crown of England, and the Danes thenceforth totally excluded the government of that kingdom.

Swain, the sister's son of Canute the great, proposed to dispute with Magnus the throne of Denmark, but was frustrated in all his attempts.

The Vandals having made an irruption into the dominions of Magnus, both armies met upon the narrow pass at Sleswic, when the Vandals were defeated with the loss of 15,000 slain, and the residue to the number of 25,000 made prisoners. This great victory, and his clemency to the prisoners, made him adored by his subjects. He is by some said to have died by a fall from his horse, by others that he was drowned, and was succeeded A. D. 1056, by Swain, who was now freely elected.

On the death of Magnus the Norwegians elected Harold, the brother of their former King Olaus, who obtained several victories against Swain, and harraſſed the Coaſts of Denmark, until an opportunity preſenting by the death of Harold, ſon of Goodwin in England, by William the Norman, he attempted the conqueſt of that kingdom, but was defeated in his views by means of a bribe given to his brother by William; but this left Swain at liberty to recover his affairs. He was afterwards attacked by the Vandals, who over-ran Holſtein without oppoſition, and died ſoon after of an acute fever in Jutland. He was ſucceeded by his ſon Harold, who reigned only two years, and his next brother Canute was elected his ſucceſſor.

Canute came to the throne ſome time about the year 1080, the date is not eſtabliſhed amongſt hiſtorians, nor perhaps very nicely material; there is nothing ſaid of his wars, he had in view the conqueſt of England, and the dignity of his own clergy, the latter not only fruſtrated his views in the former, but was even the true cauſe of his ruin; againſt the opinion of his ſtates, and of every ſenſible ſubject, he not only made the principal clergy Princes, but gave the whole body of the clergy tythes; a novelty at that time extremely diſagreeable to his ſubjects; and at the head of them his brother Olaus, of whom, though he got the better and baniſhed, was the true cauſe of his army diſperſing,

dispersing, and his intended expedition to England proving abortive; he was succeeded by his brother Olaus.

We find not in the history of this King's reign any interesting event, but of a famine and pestilence; that he reigned about eight years, and that his brother Eric succeeded him.

Eric, on his exaltation was an exile in Sweden, thence recalled and elected to the crown of Denmark; the only material action of his reign was a total reduction of the Vandals, after which, he went in pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and died at Cyprus.

A. D. 1101. Eric was succeeded by Nicholas, who had made himself a voluntary prisoner to the Earl of Flanders, for the redemption of Eric; in the reign of this Prince, the Vandals having in some measure recovered their former estate, made a sudden irruption into the Danish territories, and over-ran a great part of the Duchies of Holstein and Sleswic; but their Prince Henry having been defeated by Canute, the nephew of Nicholas, sued for peace; and so great a friendship ensued between Canute and Henry, that on the demise of the latter, the former was elected King of the Vandals.

Nicholas entering into an alliance with Sweden and Poland, reduced the Selavi, and made their Prince prisoner, but soon after released him at the instigation of Canute, whose virtues became so suspected,

suspected, as soon after cost him his life ; this produced a rebellion against Nicholas, by which through a variety of events he at length fell a sacrifice ; and if historians say true, met a fate he justly merited, and was succeeded by his son Eric.

A. D. 1135. Eric was elected King, he subdued the isle of Rugen, and had the crown to contend for with his brother Harold, whom he caused to be assassinated. He then invaded Norway, took Magnus the King prisoner, put him to death, and was soon after himself assassinated on the bench administering justice to the people. He was succeeded by Valdemar, the infant son of Canute, under the regency of Eric the lamb, who by the Historians is mentioned as King during the minority of Valdemar. A. D. 1139. In the opening of this regency, Olaus, the only surviving son of Harold, laid claim to the crown, but after two several defeats was slain in a third battle.

A. D. 1146. On the demise of Eric, the Zealanders elected Swain, son of Eric Emund, and the Jutlanders, Canute the Son of Magnus, Valdemar being still in his minority. This partition of power produced a civil war, Canute acquired in Swain's absence the possession of Zealand, but was drove out again and retired to Jutland. 1148. Pope Eugenius having published an edict, requiring all Christian Princes to make war on the Infidels; Swain and Canute became reconciled,
and

and unite in an attack on the Vandals but were defeated, and civil discord again resulted, in which contest Canute had the worst, and Valdemar, who now had the government of Sleswic conferred on him by the regent Swain, as an experiment to fit him for monarchy, took the part of that regent, engaged Canute in a set battle, defeated, and drove him out of Jutland, whence he fled for protection to Sweden.

Canute, having again found means to raise an army, attempted the recovery of his country, and besieged Swain in Wiburg, but was defeated by a sally from the town, his army dispersed, and himself reduced to retreat into Saxony. Canute finds means again to attempt the recovery of his country, and was again defeated.

John Prince of Sweden having ravished the wife of the Duke of Halland, a war ensued, in which Swain was successful, and was soon after in danger of being murdered by an insurrection of his subjects; and in return for being preserved by the judicious address of one of his Nobles, he put him to death as the presumed fomentor of the insurrection. This action was so unpopular, as even to induce Valdemar to quit his party, and unite with Canute. A partition treaty soon after ensued between the three Princes, but it does not appear what was the division assented to, other than that

Valde-

Valdemar had assigned as his part, Jutland and Sleswic.

Swain soon after abdicated the throne, and again attempted its recovery, laid several snares to take away the lives of Canute and Valdemar; he succeeded in the former, and the latter narrowly escaped; and the civil contest ended with the life of Swain, slain by Valdemar in battle, A. D. 1157.

Valdemar now enjoyed alone the effects of his virtue and valour. A. D. 1162, he engaged in a war with, and defeated the Vandals: the following year the states of Norway offered him that crown, if he would unite with them, to oblige Erling their King to relinquish; Valdemar accordingly passed over with an army to Norway, and was crowned King at Tonsberg; but being through a scarcity of provisions obliged to retreat, Erling resumed his dignity; but soon after reflecting on the consequence, passed over to Denmark, and laid his crown at the feet of Valdemar, who received him with great affability, conferred on him considerable dignities and lands for his support, and sent a viceroy to govern Norway.

A. D. 1164. A treaty of alliance was made between Valdemar and Leo, Duke of Saxony, which by Leo's misconduct soon became ineffectual; but during its continuance, both were successful against the Vandals; the sequent year 1165, Valdemar laid the foundation of the present opu-

lent city of Dantzic. And, as it should seem, the same year associated his son, Canute, an infant of four years of age, into the regnancy, at the requisition of the states, which produced a conspiracy formed against Valdemar, by Erling, late King of Norway, and others, which was timely discovered, but Erling made his escape, and resumed his ancient dignity.

1168. Leo broke the alliance, and joined with the Vandals against Denmark, as at the same time did Erling: Valdemar soon rid his hands of Leo and the Vandals; and Erling sued for favour, which was admitted on the sequent terms, that Valdemar, the youngest son of Valdemar, should be educated at the expence of, and enjoy the title of Duke of Norway, succeed to the crown in case Erling and his son Magnus should die without male issue; that Erling should serve in the wars as a vassal of Denmark, and the treaty be ratified by the states.

In the course of this history I find nothing more interesting, as it may any way respect the present time, except that by virtue of a marriage contract between the Emperor Barbarossa and Valdemar, whereby the daughter of the latter was betrothed, with the imperial approbation, to Sigefrid Landgrave, of Thuringia; Valdemar was thereupon invested with the title of Duke of Holstein, and the Dutchy annexed to the crown of Denmark

in perpetuity. This great Prince died in the 48th year of his age, and in the 25th year of his separate and distinct reign, and was succeeded by his son Canute, formerly elected, and this brings us down to the year 1182. And with the investiture of Holstein concludes this section.

S E C T. II.

CANUTE, on his entering upon the throne, found the Province of Schonen in a state of disaffection, not on account of any other Prince's claim, or to any personal dislike of the King, but as it may seem, that their natural affection was towards Sweden, and as they had, in a state of liberty, a reasonable dislike, or something more, at being preyed upon by the superior clergy, nor did they through all the misfortunes and cruelties under which they long suffered, deviate from these sentiments, and by persisting therein at last carried their point.

Nor was the case materially different in respect to the Vandals, with whom the Danes were perpetually at war, not as it regarded the interest and welfare of Denmark, but as it regarded the hierarchy of the church, extending the Papal power, and encouraging its pride and avarice; so that while in respect to their princes, the people were free; in respect to the church, they were as ab-

solute slaves, as any in the Grand Signior's dominions, their princes its dupes, and themselves its pack-horses.

The Vandals perhaps could not discern the difference between Christian and Heathen idolatry ; as a brave people they no doubt esteemed it mere tyranny, to beat them out of one nonsense into another, and therefore contested to be free with their own, and I suppose theirs, as all priests do make a point of supporting the people in that opinion.

I have been more particular as to these remarks, as that the major part of the Danish quarrels at home and abroad, since they profest Christianity, was about religion, and the support of their priests in pride and presumption, while their more modern history intimates a very different turn of thinking ; and their princes have very wisely concluded, that if their subjects elect being slaves, they have the best right to be their masters, and to reap the benefit of their folly ; and as the chief actions of this reign center in these remarks, no way interesting or instructive, I find but one article meriting notation.

A. D 1195. Canute mustered all his military power, and as it was for some centuries the custom in England, every province provided its quota of ships, men, provision, &c. the amount in shipping is said to be six hundred and seventy men of war,

war, besides these supplied by vassals, tributary states, and allies. What kind of men of war these were we are not well informed, but they probably might contain a very large army, and these only fitted out, as the historians say, to propagate Christianity upon Mahomet's plan in Gotha, Prussia, &c. Tho' I find that his brother Valdemar, with much less force and more to the purpose, made free with the adjacent provinces of Stormer, Hamburg, Lubec, &c. which were all annexed to his dutchy of Sleswic. These were the acquisitions of the year 1202. The following year Canute died suddenly, and was succeeded by his brother Valdemar.

Valdemar ascended the throne of Denmark with the reputation of great characteristical advantages, such as drew upon him the fear and envy of all his northern neighbours, of which he unhappily felt in time the fatal effects in an uncommon instance of treachery. The first years of his reign was chiefly employed in the making of salutary laws, and fortifying his acquisitions made as Duke of Sleswic. In 1208, he engaged as an auxiliary in the troubles of Sweden, where he lost a considerable part of his army; in 1209, he beautified and enlarged the city of Hamburg; and in 1211, founded the city of Stralsund, in the royal Pomerania, and made that province tributary; in 1213 and 14, he was engaged in a
contention

contention about the archbishopric of Bremen, as taking part with the Pope, who had preferred one prelate, and the citizens had put in another; on this occasion Valdemar laid siege to the town of Stadt, and was opposed in this process by the marquis of Brandenburg. Otho, the deposed emperor, and Henry Count Palatine, who lay with a considerable body of troops at some distance to annoy the besiegers, and relieve the town; while Valdemar attended this siege, Otho drew part of his army before Hamburgh, besieged and took it, left a garrison therein, and retired with the remainder of his troops; Valdemar made himself master of Stadt, went into winter quarters, and in the spring 1216, besieged and re-took Hamburgh. He next made himself master of all Count Palatine's dominions in the Lower Saxony; 1217, he returned to Denmark, held a Diet, and procured his son Valdemar to be declared his successor; 1218, he made an expedition into Livonia, and defeated the conjunct army of Livonians, Muscovites and Lithuanians. Here the historians give us the state of the revenues of Denmark *, amounting to one hundred thousand marks a day, which,

* I cannot avoid remarking in this place, that if the marks then were computed with the Danes, as in England at 13 s. 4 d. per mark, the mentioned revenue was nearly equal to our real expences in the last war, and at that time to the wealth of all the Princes in Europe. The value of a mark Danish now is only 8 d. sterling, and makes the above sum probable.

from

from other circumstances in the same computation, cannot be true; with this amazing revenue at that time of day, there is said to have been regularly maintained fourteen hundred great and small ships, which on an average bore one hundred twenty-one men, amounting to one hundred sixty-nine thousand four hundred fighting men, besides guards and garrisons, which, by the way, could not require one quarter of that revenue, as even men are now paid; but the question is, what was the value of a mark?

A. D. 1223. The pre-mentioned Henry Count Palatine, in the hunting season this year, found means to intercept Valdemar in the chase, and carry him off prisoner to the castle of Daneberg, where he continued near three years, and could not obtain his release, but on paying a large ransom in money, a formal surrender of all the Count's dominions by him previously conquered, and a solemn oath never to resent the treachery.

From this time we do not find any extraordinary transactions of this Prince, except that he formed an entire new code of laws, whereby the civil and religious rights, and all that appertained to prerogative and liberty, were perfectly adjusted between the sovereign and the people, which continued in force until the great revolution, that made all compacts between the Prince and subject of no avail.

This

This great Prince departed this life April 1241, leaving to his successor a large extent of dominion in perfect tranquillity. He was succeeded by his second son Eric, Valdemar the elder having been killed a hunting about twenty years before.

The chief part of Eric's reign was employed in contention with his younger brothers Canute, Abel and Christopher, or in civil disputes with his subjects; his brethren had by their father independent sovereignties assigned them, which occasioned a contest, with some slight intervals of peace, that only the death of Eric determined by the treachery of his brother Abel, who thereupon ascended the Throne A. D. 1250.

In the election of Abel by the states, policy seems to have acquired the pre-eminence over justice, he was not then fully proved the murderer of his brother, though not doubted by any body; but as this election added Abel's dominions to the main body of the state, and was conceived to end all civil contention, he was for such reasons preferred. However, this mistaken determination of the Diet, in preferring profit to honesty, had its natural effect, his reign was short, and was, on St. Peter's day 1252, slain by his own subjects; and Christopher his brother elected King, in preference to Valdemar the son of Abel, for the like partial reasons as the preceding election of Abel, with only this distinction, that the name of Abel was
univer-

universally abhorred, and it could not be obtained to advance any from that stem. But even here the Diet found themselves mistaken, for Christopher was hardly settled on the throne, when his fiefs of Holstein and Sleswic engaged him in a civil war, that proved not much to his advantage; his next quarrel was with the Church, which ended only with life 1259, as supposed to have been poisoned in the Eucharist by the Bishop of Arpius.

Christopher was succeeded by his son Eric, an infant, under the guardianship of his mother. We see nothing meriting remark through this young Prince's reign, that added any glory or dignity to the state of Denmark; during his reign some supplemental laws were added to the general code, and in 1286 he was, in a progress to Jutland, and without any apparent cause or injury done, murdered at a public inn on the road by nine of his nobility, and was succeeded by his son Eric, an infant. The Diet and his mother governed the kingdom, and the guardianship of the young King was committed to Valdemar, Duke of Holstein.

The first step of this reign was an enquiry into the murder of his father; the murderers were proscribed, and their estates confiscated; they retired to Norway, and had the address to engage that kingdom into a war with Denmark, very much to the disadvantage of the latter.

This reign, which continued near thirty-two years, is not attended with any thing besides very material, except an ecclesiastical dispute between the King and the Popes on account of the Danish clergy, whereby the kingdom became some years interdicted, to such a height at that time was aspired the Roman Prelacy; 1318 Eric died, and was succeeded by his brother Christopher.

On the death of Eric several candidates laid claim to the crown, and the election canvassed with great spirit and address by the contending parties, as well as with a more than ordinary share of bribery and corruption; and as superior herein, and an engagement to grant every thing the clergy desired, Christopher, after two years contest, was elected King.

A. D. 1323, his son Eric was in full Diet associated with him in the regality; and Christopher soon after deviating from his coronation oath in various particulars, his subjects revolted; Eric was made prisoner in endeavouring to reduce them, and in 1326 Christopher was entirely drove out of Denmark, and Valdemar Duke of Sleswic elected King.

Valdemar was not constitutionally elected, but only by the suffrages of a faction of his principal subjects at the instigation of the clergy, whom Christopher had disobliged; and this faction falling into disputes among themselves who should govern the
young

young King, and who enjoy the most honourable and lucrative employs, Christopher soon found means to form a plan for the recovery of his dominions, in which he succeeded, and in 1329 was reinstated; young Valdemar retired with an allotted annuity, to his dukedom of Sleswic; and in 1333, Christopher being engaged in a dispute with Gerhard, the guardian Duke of Sleswic, was accidentally made prisoner, but soon after released again and died of grief.

On the demise of Christopher an inter-reign ensued; his elder son Eric had been killed by an accident, and his younger son Valdemar at the imperial court, the fathers character in great contempt, and the country all in confusion, a civil war sustained by Gerhard in favour of his nephew Valdemar of Sleswic, which had now continued near seven years, when Nicholas Norevi, a private gentleman, of his own meer motion, and without confederates, attempted to restore his country's tranquillity, which he effected with forty horse only, by killing Gerhard in the midst of his army; and in 1340 Valdemar, the son of Christopher, was elected King.

Zealand, Jutland, and other precincts of the Danish dominions, had during the inter-reign been possessed by Holsteiners, and other adjacent nations, who were now expelled, and those who had conquered others for so many ages, and had so lately laboured under the most infamous oppression, once

more became re-inspired with their ancient courage, and thereby obtained the sweets of liberty and peace, in which it continued, with a variety of casual events, of no material effect to its prejudice, but rather enlarged by an acquisition of the province of Schonen, until the death of Valdemar 1275; who was succeeded by Olaus his grandson, by his younger daughter Margaret, and at that time King of Norway, and his mother Margaret at the same time declared regent; Olaus had barely survived his minority, when he died at the age of 22, A. D. 1387, and Margaret was elected Queen of Denmark, who united Norway to that kingdom.

There not being at this time any regular claimants to these united dominions, who might on the demise of Margaret succeed her, to prevent the experienced ill consequences of future disputes, the states addressed Margaret to marry; but as she did not like the proposal, to content them she intimated, that if they were of the same opinion, she would have Henry the son of her elder sister succeed her, which the states readily assenting to; that Prince will hence appear by the name of Eric.

1388. Albert, King of Sweden, having declared war against Denmark, Margaret took her measures so well, as to defeat the Swedes and their allies in a set battle, made Albert prisoner, and annexed Sweden to the crowns of Denmark and Norway, 1391; but not solemnly crowned in Sweden

den until the conclusion of the year 1395; when Eric was likewise declared her successor in that kingdom.

1397. Margaret convoked a Diet at Calmar, where the deputies of the three nations assembled; and therein that famous treaty was made, by which the three kingdoms became perfectly united under one sovereign, and the succession vested in Eric; and concludes this period with the death of Margaret 1411, in the fifty-ninth year of her age, and thirty-sixth of her regency and reign.

S E C T. III.

THERE appears not any material transactions during the course of this reign, until the year 1433, except some indeterminate disputes with the Dutchies of Sleswic and Holstein; at which time a general discontent appeared in Sweden, from Eric's not conforming to the union of Calmar, which in 1435 were accommodated; but a farther violation of this treaty produced new convulsions in Sweden, and his subjects of Denmark taking part with the Swedes in support of that union, on which their common liberties depended, Eric was at length deposed, and Christopher, of Bavaria, Eric's sister's son was, 1439, elected the next year; he assembled the states at Wiburg, and then engaged to assent to such matters

ters as should be agreed upon at an ensuing general assembly appointed at Calmar. 1443. Christopher made a progress to Norway, and was there solemnly invested with the regal dignity; thence passed into Denmark, and was crowned at Ripon; in 1448 he issued writs for assembling the Swedish Diet, and was preparing to pass into that kingdom, when he was seized with an illness that put an end to his life.

On the demise of Christopher without issue, the three kingdoms were severally at a loss, on whom to pitch upon to inherit: the Swedish Diet assembled, formed of two parties, the one for preserving the union of Calmar, the other for raising to the regal dignity, Canutson, who had for some years past warmly interested himself on the part of the Swedish rights and privileges. The Danish Diet had likewise assembled, and offered the crown to Adolphus, Duke of Holstein, who refused accepting it, but proposed to them his nephew Christian, son of the Earl of Oldenburg; the proposal was so acceptable, that Embassadors were sent to the Earl, to demand either of the three sons he would recommend; his answer was very singular. “ My three sons are of very opposite
 “ dispositions; the one passionately fond of pleasure and women; the next of war, without
 “ respect to the cause; the third moderate, prefers peace to arms, yet stands unrivalled in valour,
 “ four,

“four, generosity and magnanimity; this is for
 “the senate’s information, and are at their own
 “choice, which they think would make them hap-
 “piest.” As there was no doubt in this, the lat-
 ter was selected, and from this happy auspices
 sprung the royal house of Denmark.

Canutson’s party carried it in Sweden, he notified his election to the states of Denmark and Norway, and proposed at the same time a continuance of the union of Calmar; but finding both kingdoms averse to his exaltation, he proclaimed war, and attacked the isle of Gothland, whereon was then seated the famous commercial town of Wisbay, in possession of the late King Eric.

This motion of the Swedes hastened the election of Christian, who was immediately proclaimed at Tollerobob, the ancient place of electing Kings of Denmark and Norway; Eric put the citadel of Wisbay into the hands of the Danes, who reinforced the garrison, and complimented Eric with any part of the Danish dominions to which he should chuse to retire, with an appendage suited to his dignity 1448.

1449. The Swedes continued the siege until Christian in person came to its relief, burnt the town, and obliged the Swedes to submit at discretion, when Christian returned to Denmark, and was solemnly crowned.

Canutson, who is hereafter to appear by the name of Charles, made a descent with his army into Norway, and procured himself to be crowned King at Drontheim.

1451. Charles made an irruption into Schonen, and Christian the next year into West Gothland, and at the same time besieged Stockholm with another army, but did not succeed in the latter attempt.

Christian did not consider any little repulse of his arms as of any kind of consequence, and only kept an army in action, to cover his private negotiations, which at length answered his utmost wishes, as it procured Charles in 1458 to be deposed, and the re-union of the three kingdoms; at the same time, by the death of Adolphus, the Dutchy of Sleswic reversed to the crown of Denmark.

1464. Charles resumed the crown, and the next year was again deposed; and in the year 1470 died, and instead of a King, the states elected Steen Sture regent.

1480. Christian attempted to revive the union of Calmar, in which he was disappointed; but the states at the same time agreed, that his heir apparent should succeed to the crown of Sweden; and amidst great feasting, on the birth of a prince May 1481, Christian, after a very short illness, yielded up his last breath.

His

His issue. John who succeeded him; Frederic, Duke of Sleswic, afterwards King; Margaret, Queen of Scotland, by whom came the Orkneys and Shetland, and the young Prince pre-mentioned.

On John's accession to the throne; the Danish Diet dispatched embassadors to Sweden and Norway, inviting them to send deputies to Helmstadt, in order to the election of a sovereign of the three kingdoms, pursuant to the treaty of Calmar. Steen Sture, the Swedish administrator, conceiving, that such assembly might prejudice his dignity, evaded the sending any; on advice of this, the states of Denmark and Norway confirmed John's election; and in 1483, he was solemnly crowned at Copenhagen, and some time after at Drontheim, in Norway.

John, at the instance of his mother, and a strong presumption that the Swedes would be tired of their regent, deferred for some years any warlike attempt; but finding himself in this deceived, 1497, he entered Sweden with an army, beat the regent's troops, took Stockholm, and was elected King.

This monarch was not so happy in his next expedition against the Dithmarsians, who inhabited the vicinity of Bremen, a country not above * seven

* As this account is taken from Danish authors, the extent of this country may, as it respects the English reader, be mistaken,

ven miles in extent, the people brave and determined to be free; against these John marched with an army almost too large for that little country to contain, but met with the same fate as Xerxes, at the straits of Thermopila, and was beat on the same glorious principle, by men determined to conquer, or not survive their liberty. Alas! Did princes but consider the folly of acquisition, they would rather contrive to govern, within narrow bounds at home, with judgment and rectitude, than to project the destruction of mankind, by an idle extent of dominion. There are but two reasons for war, the one to repel insults, the other to preserve rights, John had been so instructed by his wise mother Dorothea; but, as most princes are, was too wilful and headstrong, to adhere to sober advice, and the event was suitably fatal; and had it happened otherwise, would not have tended much to John's honour; and this defeat followed by the revolt of both Sweden and Norway 1502. The next year Norway was recovered, but Sweden, through a variety of action, continued under its former administration, to the death of Sture, in 1512; and to that of the King, who died 1513; he left better advice to his son, than himself had pursued, tho', except against those brave people above-mentioned, he was generally taken, as there is but ten $\frac{1}{2}$ Danish miles to a degree, so this country, as is most probable, was forty odd miles in extent.

successful;

successful ; but this in no respect justifies his conduct, or proves his wisdom.

John was succeeded by his son Christian, who formed various designs for the recovery of Sweden, none of which had their due effect. In 1515, an earthquake shook the whole face of Iceland, and did incredible damage. One Troll was elected administrator in Sweden, and acted on the like principles as his predecessor Sture ; and in 1517, Lutheranism made its first appearance in Denmark, with the approbation, and under the protection and encouragement of Christian.

1519. The war with Sweden revived, Christian was successful in various set battles, the administrator killed in the latter action ; and in 1520, Christian besieged and took Stockholm, and was crowned King of Sweden.

The same year a plan was formed by this mistaken Prince, for the attainment of absolute power in Sweden, which he in some measure effected the next year, by an horrid massacre of the Senate, and great part of the citizens of Stockholm ; among the murdered nobility, was Eric, the father of Gustavus Vasa, who soon after revenged his death, and made the crown of Sweden independent, which was followed 1523, by the revolt of Jutland, and the abdication of Christian, who, with all his wealth, made his escape with his Queen, children and Sigebret, his female favourite, his

great adviser, in all his wanton and inconsiderable measures, in twenty ships to Wesel, was formally deposed by the states of Denmark, and Frederic, Duke of Holstein, his uncle, elected King.

Frederic, on the outset of his reign, whether to please the Danes, or of his own meer motion, seemed to have thoughts of attempting the crown of Sweden, but on more mature advice, and thorough information of the character of Gustavus, which was truly great, Frederic altered his plan, entered into a league offensive and defensive with Gustavus, and very wisely turned his mind to the regulating the disordered affairs of his proper subjects.

1527. Frederic assembled the states, and regulated the affairs of religion, in favour of the reformation: the same year Christian attempted the recovery of his crown, but was defeated, taken prisoner, and confined in the castle of Sunderburg, until the death of Frederic, April 13, 1583, at Gottorp.

Christian III, eldest son of Frederic, after various contests about the succession, succeeded him, and having in 1537 obtained possession of Copenhagen, he seized on all the principal clergy, and the states concurred with him in annexing the church lands to the crown; which entirely annihilated one order of the states, and threw the power into the hands of the nobility.

1589, a treaty of peace was made with Sweden, and soon after another with France, formed in opposition to the scheme of the Emperor Charles V. for the universal monarchy of the North, 1542; and a war thereupon ensued between the Emperor and the northern crowns, now in one common interest, united with each other, and with France.

1544, a peace was concluded with the Low Countries, and with the Emperor; and Sleswic and Holstein the same year dimembered from the crown of Denmark, in favour of the King's Brothers; and in 1546 Christian II. made a formal renunciation of his claim to the Crown of Denmark, 1547, Frederic, eldest son of Christian III. was declared by the states his successor; and in 1548 Christian died, leaving this world with a very amiable character.

1549, Frederic declared war against the brave Dithmarsians, which was better conducted than formerly under John; in short, he carried his point, and they became subjects to the crown of Denmark. This was succeeded by various contests with the crown of Sweden, which in 1568 concluded in a peace; 1569 the war was renewed; and in 1572 a solid peace ensued. After which time there does not appear any material contest between Denmark and the neighbouring states. In 1588 Frederic died, and the succession devolved on his son Christian, an infant of eleven years of age, under the guardianship

guardianship of four regents, and during his minority the nation remained in a profound peace.

1611, war was declared against Sweden, but on what real grounds is not in history apparent; it opened with the siege of Calmar, and Christian appeared for some time to have the advantage, until 1613, when the great Gustavus Adolphus ascended the throne, fortune took a turn in favour of Sweden, and by the mediation of the King of England, a peace ensued between the two nations on equal terms, a series of tranquillity ensued, until the year 1623, when Christian was chosen head of the protestant league, and entered Germany with an army in favour of the elector Palatine. And this year the new city of Fredericstادت on the Eyder was peopled by the fugitive Armenians from the Netherlands.

Christian in this war was far from proving successful, he was several times defeated by the Imperial army, and Denmark so harrassed by Count Tilly, the Emperor's general, that the states addressed the Emperor for peace, which was concluded the 7th May, 1629; and Gustavus Adolphus placed at the head of the league, to much more glory and advantage than Christian had been.

1637, Christian formed a scheme to conquer Sweden, and ruin the Dutch commerce in the Baltic, by means of a treaty for that purpose with Spain; but Van Trump put a final conclusion to this
 # whimsical

whimsical project, by the destruction of the Spanish fleet; and the Swedes, to resent the design, in 1741 made a sudden irruption into Denmark, that made Christian tremble for the preservation of his own country, instead of conquering Sweden, and after a long and bloody war, very much to the disadvantage of Denmark; in 1645 a peace was concluded; and all this apparently owing to the resentment of Christian, because Gustavus proved a more successful warrior, at the head of the protestant league, than he had been; and in February 1648 Christian died.

Christian was succeeded by his son Frederic; the first transaction of whose reign was a treaty with the Dutch, for a certain, instead of a casual sum, for the free passage of their commerce through the Sound, which was concluded towards the close of the year 1648.

1653, one other treaty with the Dutch to join them with twenty ships of war, against the states of England; and in consequence, seized twenty-two English merchant ships in the port of Copenhagen without declaring war.

1657, Frederic declared war against Sweden; but in the year following a peace ensued, Charles Gustavus King of Sweden, from resentment of the former act to Frederic, and a view to the conquest of Denmark, soon after declared war in his turn, and laid siege to Copenhagen, for which he was then

then amply prepared. On this unexpected turn, and in the weak state of the city, the Danish nobility, who had hitherto treated the people with great oppression and contempt, now acted the submissive parts in their turns; they promised the burghers a voice in the public deliberations, to purchase lands with the like privileges as the gentlemen, and only to pay equal share of taxes with the nobility, with other promises. The burghers did their duty, bravely defended and preserved the city, the enemy effectually repulsed, and a peace ensued; and it will appear in the subsequent chapter, that even in this very year 1660, in which the peace was concluded, and almost before the terror of the Swedish cannon was out of their ears, the nobility forfeited in full assembly their previous voluntary engagements, and thereby at once introduced their own ruin, and perpetual slavery to the people.

The Form of Government in DENMARK, to the great Revolution 1660.—And the manner by which the Crown became hereditary and absolute.

THE Danes in their descent, as is supposed from the East, in pursuit of new habitations, in the attainment of them, are generally conceived to have preserved the like form of government, as that whereby their armies were directed in the course

course of their migration, and to have naturally issued therefrom, only disposed into three divisions; the Prince or Leader, the Officers, and the body of the People; each distinction an equal right of voting in the general assembly, on all important emergencies. And so this Form seems to have continued invariable, until some time after their conversion to Christianity, when the Priests by degrees crept into power, and formed a fourth estate. This power continued in the church until the time of Martin Luther, when a reformation taking place, the clergy were excluded, and the influence they had acquired through a long series of years, assumed by the nobility, in addition to their former independency, by which they seemed to have acquired a double power in the government, and to be a kind of equipoise or counterbalance against both the sovereign and the people, hence inconsiderately assuming too much on the Prince, and treating with contempt the people; it is true, a body of the clergy still subsisted in the Diet, but these not as the excluded bishops in the rank of nobility; but as Commoners, paid taxes in the same manner, and equally subjected to the influence of the Nobles, who did not, as in the ancient Form, pay their proportional share, but following the example of the former clergy, would pay only what themselves pleased.

In this state was the constitution of Denmark

in 1660, when the necessity of money to pay the army, called in question a pre-engagement of the nobility to level themselves in respect of taxes with the clergy and people, and with which they refusing to comply, produced the ensuing event; which I relate in the words of the sensible and judicious Lord Moleſworth.

S E C T. IV.

The Manner how the Kingdom of DENMARK became hereditary and absolute.

AFTER the conclusion of the peace between the two northern crowns, anno 1660, some considerable time was necessary to redress the disorders occasioned by so terrible a war. Denmark had been most violently shaken, and although the fury of the tempest was over, the agitation caused by it still continued; the army was not yet disbanded, nor could be for want of money to discharge its arrears. This caused frequent insolvencies in the soldiers, with a further oppression of the burgers and poor country people, who had been in a manner already ruined by the miseries attending the war. The nobility, though lords and masters, were full of discontent, and the clergy not in the condition they wished.

To redress all which grievances, and reduce affairs into some order, by procuring money for the

the payment and disbanding of the army, the King thought fit to appoint a meeting of the three estates at Copenhagen, viz. the Nobility, Commonalty and Cergy; which accordingly followed about the beginning of October: after some few days session (during which the nobility, according to their usual practice, debated how the sums of money requisite might, with greatest ease and conveniency, be levied upon the Commons, without the least intencion of bearing any proportionable share themselves.) Several disputes arose, and many sharp expressions passed between them and the Commons; on the one hand, the nobility were for maintaining their ancient prerogative of paying nothing by way of tax, but only by voluntary contribution; and shewed themselves too stiff at a time when the country was exhausted, and most of the remaining riches lodged in their hands: they seemed to make use of this occasion, not only to vindicate, but even to widen and enlarge their privileges above the other two estates, by laying impositions on them at pleasure, which weight they themselves would not touch with one of their fingers, any further, than as they thought fitting. On the other hand, the clergy for their late adherence to the interest of their country, and the burghers for the vigorous defence of their city, thought they might justly pretend to new merit, and be considered at least as good subjects in a

state, which they themselves had so valiantly defended. They remembered the great promises made them when dangerous enterprises were to be taken in hand, and how successfully they had executed them; thereby saving from a foreign yoke, not only the city of Copenhagen, but the whole kingdom, the royal family, nay those very nobles that now dealt so hardly with them: they judged it therefore reasonable, that the sums of money necessary should be levied proportionably, and that the nobility, who enjoyed all the lands, should at least pay their share of the taxes, since they had suffered less in the common calamity, as well as done less to prevent the progress of it.

This manner of arguing was very displeasing to the nobles, and begat much heat and many bitter replies on both sides: at length a principal senator, called Otto Craeg, stood up, and in great anger told the president of the city, that the Commons neither understood nor considered the privileges of the nobility, who at all times had been exempted from taxes, nor the true condition of themselves, who were no other than slaves; [the word in the Danish is unfree] so that their best way was to keep within their own bounds, and acquiesce in such measures as ancient practice had warranted, and which they were resolved to maintain. This word Slaves put all the burghers and clergy in disorder, causing a loud murmur in the hall; which

which Nanfon the president of the city of Copenhagen, and speaker of the House of Commons, perceiving, and finding a fit occasion of putting in practice a design before concerted (though but weakly) between him and the Bishop, in great choler rose out of his seat, and swore an oath, that the Commons were no slaves, nor would from thenceforth be so called by the nobility, which they should soon prove to their cost: and thereupon breaking up the assembly in disorder, and departing out of the hall, was followed by all the clergy and burghers; the nobles being left alone to consult among themselves at their leisure, after a little while adjourned to a private house near the court.

In the mean time the Commons, being provoked to the highest degree, and resolving to put their threats in execution, marched processionally by couples, a Clergyman and a Commoner, from the great Hall or Parliament-House to the Brewers-Hall, which was the convenientest place they could pitch upon to sit apart from the nobles, the Bishop of Copenhagen, and the president of the city leading them: it was there thought necessary to consider speedily of the most effectual means to suppress the intolerable pride of the nobility, and how to mend their own condition; after many debates they concluded, that they should immediately wait upon the King, and offer him their votes and assistance to be absolute monarch of the realm, as
also

also that the crown should descend by inheritance to his family, which hitherto had gone by election. They promised themselves the King would have so great obligations to them for this piece of service, that he would grant and confirm such privileges, as should put them above the degree of slaves. They knew he had hitherto been curbed by the nobility to a great measure ; and now saw their own force, being able (since they had arms in their hands, and the concurrence of the soldiers) to perform what they undertook : at the worst, they supposed they should only change many masters for one, and could better bear hardships from a King than from inferior persons : or if their case were not bettered, at least they thought it some comfort to have more company in it ; besides, the satisfaction of revenge on those that had hitherto not only used them ill, but insulted over them so lately. They knew the King, and had seen him bear with an admirable patience and constancy all his calamities ; were persuaded that he was a valiant Prince, who had often exposed his person for the sake of the public, and therefore thought they could never do enough to shew their gratitude ; which is the usual temper of the people upon any benefit received from their Prince.

Scarce was this proposed but it was agreed to ; and nothing but the unseasonableness of the time, (it being now near night) deferred the immediate execution

execution of it; but all the necessary measures were taken against next morning. The clergy had a further drift in this change of government; for having been hitherto kept under by the nobility, they forecasted to have no other superior but the King, whose new authority they engaged to maintain by the influence they had on the consciences of the people; expecting with reason the like favour and protection from the King, together with an increase of their power; since he was in a great measure obliged to them for his own; and the benefits were likely to be mutual for the future, the one having the force, the other the tie of religion in their possession. Which contract subsists to this very day, to the great advantage of both sides.

The court all this while was not ignorant of what passed; there wanted no spies nor messengers to give notice of the discontents of the Commons. Hannibal Seestede, a cunning man, was prime minister; and the bishop or superintendent Swan, with Nanson the speaker of the House of Commons, were his creatures: these had formerly in secret laid with him the design, which was now upon the point of disclosing, though their hopes were hardly raised so high, as to promise themselves such mighty success. The whole night passed in brigues and messages, the Commons anger was to be kept up to the requisite height, and the resolution

resolution they had taken the night before not to be suffered to cool, but persisted in betimes next morning. The Queen, a woman of intrigue and high spirit, wrought strongly in it by all manner of ways, whilst the King, either through doubt of the event, or sense of the dishonesty and crime of the action, in procuring after such a manner the absolute dominion of a free country, could hardly be brought to comply with it. He declared, that indeed he should be pleased the Sovereignty were entailed on his family, provided it were done by universal consent; but to become absolute and arbitrary, was neither his desire, nor did he think it for the benefit of the kingdom; that he was satisfied he should not make ill use of such an unlimited authority; but nobody knew what successors he might have; that it was therefore dangerous both for them to give, and for him to receive such a power, as might be abused in future times to the utter ruin of the nation. But these reflections, whether they were real or only pretences, whether caused by the piety or weakness of the King, were soon over-ruled by the more ambitious and masculine spirit of the Queen, who desired him to sit still, and see how she and her emissaries would work for him, told him, that the plot was well laid, and had begun to operate prosperously; that he must not obstruct his own and his family's good fortune; and in fine, so far prevailed on him, that

that he seemed with fear to consent to, and permit that which most think he very much desired; Having however by this shew of unwillingness, left open to himself a door of reconciliation with his people, in case the business did not succeed.

All this while the Nobles either had none, or but small intimation of the design of the Commons; they had been used so long to slight and tyrannize over them, that they were not now sensible of any impending danger from thence, contemning their threats as well as their persons, and imagining they would have repented next day, and complied with all that should be demanded of them; but the plot was deeper laid than they supposed; for not only the prime minister, but some other members of their own body, who had employments depending on the Court, were engaged in it. This inadvertency, with the want of requisite courage upon occasion, brought upon them the mischief on a sudden; so that except two or three who were more than ordinary doubtful of what might happen, and slipped out of town that night, the rest were altogether fearless of danger, till the very instant that the evil was remediless.

Schack the governor of the town had been gained by the Court to favour the design, which he performed effectually, though not with so fervile an intention as others; for when the King, upon the first news of the resolution of the Com-

mons, did often openly promise that he would in gratitude and recompence declare them all free as soon as it lay in his power, by the gift they were about to make him; and the people were willing to trust the King's goodness, and to depend on the performance of this promise, encouraged thereunto by the clergy, who alledged it a thing unbecoming and dishonourable to require any other security from the King, than his bare word; yet Schack urged vehemently that the Commons should insist to have this promise under the King's hand, and make themselves sure of the reward for so considerable a present as they were going to make, whilst they had so fair an opportunity in their hands. But all his instances were in vain; they were in the giving humour, and resolved to do it generously, trusting the King for the performance of his word: a thing which they have since often, though too late, repented of.

Next morning the Nobles met in the Council-House, and the other two estates in the Brewers-Hall; the resolution of the Commons could not be kept so secret, but by this time some warm rumours of it had reached the Nobility; but scarce had they leisure to consider what was fittest to be done on that occasion, when they were informed that the Commons were marching towards them: For the bishop and the president had so well performed their parts, and urged the necessity of speedily executing what had been resolved the day before,

fore, that all time was judged lost which was not employed in putting it in practice; they immediately agreed to go to the Council-House, and there propound to the Nobility their design, desiring their concurrence in such a necessary work for the welfare of the kingdom. They marched through the streets with great gravity, and silence, by couples, as before, whilst the mob, by repeated shouts, applauded what they were going to do. And thus they came to the House where the Nobles were assembled, who had scarce warning sufficient to receive them.

The president Nanfon made a short harangue, setting forth that they had considered the state of the nation, and that they found the only remedy for the many disorders which afflicted it, was to make the Crown hereditary, and to give more power to the King than hitherto he had enjoyed; that this resolution was already taken by the Commons and clergy, in which, if the Nobility should think fitting to concur, they were ready to accompany them to the King, and make him a tender of an hereditary and sovereign dominion; if not, that they were going themselves, and the matter should be done without them: that a speedy resolution was necessary, for they had already sent word to the Court of their coming, and his Majesty expected them in the hall of his palace; therefore desired to be informed in few words what they resolved to do.

The suddenness of such a proposition, and briskness in the manner of its delivery, caused a general astonishment in the Nobles; one might have seen those who but the day before carried it so proudly, in an instant fall to an excess of complacency, and betray their fear by their speeches and countenances, as they formerly had done their arrogance. The mischief no sooner appeared to them, but they saw it was unavoidable; there was no leisure allowed them to consult; and to deny their compliance, or even to delay it, was dangerous. To give up at once their beloved power, and submit their necks to a heavy yoke, was an intolerable grievance: but they saw they were no longer the masters; the Commons were armed, the army and clergy against them; and they found now too late, that that which the day before they had considered only as the effort of an unconstant giddy multitude, was guided by wiser heads, and supported by encouragements from Court; nay possibly by some of their own body: they suspected each other, and no man knew, whether his next neighbour was not in the plot against the publick liberty. It is easy to imagine what distracted thoughts afflicted them on a sudden; they were altogether unprepared for such a dismal stroke: but some answer must be given, and that speedily. Such a one as they had a mind to give, they durst not; for they were assembled in a fortified town, remote from their several countries and interests

(where

(where they had governed like so many Princes) in the power of those who could, and certainly would be revenged in case they proved refractory. The best way therefore was to seem to approve of what they could not hinder. They answer, that the proposition made to them by the Commons was not displeasing, but the manner of it wanted the requisite formalities ; that previous deliberation was necessary to an affair of so great moment ; that they could not but take it ill, a resolution of such consequence should be concluded on by the Commons without the least acquainting of the Nobility with it, who were the chief estate of the realm : that they also aspired to the honour of bearing their part in bestowing such a material gift on the King and his posterity, but desired that the matter might be proceeded on with that gravity, and solemnity, which the nature of it required. That it was not fit such a weighty transaction should have the appearance of a tumult, and seemed forced rather than a free choice. The conclusion of all was, that they hoped the Commons would a little defer the putting in execution their design ; and in the mean time consult with them, till the affair were done orderly, and with unanimous approbation, as well as to mutual advantage.

This was with great vehemency by the president denied. He replied, these were shifts only to gain time, that the Nobles might be in a condition

dition to frustrate the intention of the Commons; that the point was already agreed, and the resolution taken; that they came not thither to consider, but to act; if the Nobles would join with them, they were ready; if not, they would do what was to be done alone; and doubted not but his Majesty would make his use of it.

During these disputes the Nobility had privily sent some of their body to Court to acquaint the King, that the Commons were now at their House, and had made them sudden proposals, out of form, but such as they should rather concur with, than be averse to; that they were ready to join with them in offering an hereditary crown to his Majesty, and the heirs males of his family for ever; which they hoped his Majesty would accept in good part: but desired to proceed in the usual methods, which such weighty affairs merited, viz. by conferences and deliberations, that it might appear rather an effect of their just sentiments of his Majesty's valour and conduct, than the sudden motions of a tumultuous assembly.

The King, with a great deal of mildness, as if he had been wholly unconcerned and passive in the case, replied; that he was obliged to them for their designs in favour of him, and the Royal Family; that he hoped what they were about would tend to the benefit of the nation; but that a crown intailed only on the heirs males could not be so acceptable to him, as if it were given without
that

that limitation ; that the government of females had neither been a new thing at home, nor unprosperous in neighbouring countries : that they might consider of it, and since it was their gift, he would not prescribe, but it would not be accepted by him unless it were more general.

In the mean time the Commons grew impatient, the answer given them was not satisfactory, and the Nobles had not yet resolved on an entire compliance, nor were ready to accompany them, because they had not yet an account of the success of their members sent to sound the mind of the Court. The clergy and burghers therefore, led on by their bishop and president, proceed without them to the palace, and were met by the prime minister, and conducted by him to the hall of audience, whither after some short time the King came to them. The bishop makes a long speech, setting forth the praises of his Majesty, and the cause of their waiting on him ; concluding with an offer, in the name of themselves, the two most numerous, and if he pleased most powerful estates, of an hereditary and absolute dominion ; together with the assistance of their hands and purses ; in case any body should go about to obstruct so necessary and laudable a design, for the good of the country. The King told them in short, that he thanked them ; and in case an universal consent established this good desire of theirs, he would accept the present they made him ; but that the concurrence of the Nobles

Nobles was necessary ; which he doubted not of in the least, when they had time to make the offer with the necessary formalities : that he assured the Commons of his royal protection, and should not be unmindful of their kindness, by easing them of their grievances, and by encouraging subjects who had behaved themselves so valiantly, and deserved so well from him. Concluding with his advice to them, to continue their session till such time as matters were brought to perfection, and he could receive their gift with the solemnity that was fitting. And thereupon dismissed them.

But the Nobles were all this while in a grievous distraction ; they saw the Commons were gone to the King without them : their messengers brought news back that their proposition of entailing the crown on the heirs males, was not pleasing, because a greater advantage was in prospect ; that this offer was looked upon to proceed from persons that would not have bestowed any thing, if they could have helped it. That it was thought they pretended to merit in giving only a part, when it was not in their power to hinder the taking the whole. In this irresolution they broke up ; and since they were to meet again at noon upon another solemn occasion, they resolved at that time to consider how to proceed in an affair so delicate.

Monfieur Schele a senator, and principal man of the country, was that afternoon to be buried
in

in great pomp ; his body had lain some months in state, and according to the custom, was to be accompanied to its interment by all the Nobility then in town ; this being a parliament time was chosen for the ceremony, because the Nobles were altogether, and a magnificent dinner was prepared, as is usual on the like occasions ; in the height of their entertainment an officer comes into the room, and whispers some of the principal men that the city gates were shut, and the keys carried to Court : for the King having been informed by the governor, that two or three had privily slipt out of town the night before, and being resolved that no more should escape out of the net, till he had done his business, had ordered the governor that morning to lock the gates, and to let no person in or out without special order. The governor sent one Bill, the town-major, to put this in execution ; who as soon as he had done it, came to the house where they were met, and sat down at table among the senators. This dismal news of the officer was presently whispered round the Company ; who immediately applied themselves to him, to know what the meaning was of such an unusual proceeding at the time of a general convention ; they asked him what destiny was appointed them, whether they were there to be massacred, or what else was to be done with them ? The town-major calmly answered, that he believed there was no danger towards them, that such violent measures would not be taken

by so gracious a King; tho' he had indeed given the orders himself for the shutting the gates; and that no body was to stir out of town without leave; but that this needed not disturb or hinder them from finishing the work of the day, and pursuing the public, as well as their private occasions. There wanted no more than this confirmation from the officer to overthrow all the resolution, and consultations of the Nobles; the dread of losing their lives took away all thoughts of their liberty. They immediately dispatched messengers both to the Court, and the Commons, to give notice of their disposition to comply with what was formerly proposed; assuring them likewise, that they were ready to agree to all that should be asked of them.

But the King, who had began and played his game so well hitherto, determined to pursue it to the utmost, and would not suffer the gates to be opened, till the whole ceremony of the inauguration was concluded, and the homage done in due form, and therefore ordered they should stay, till in the face of the people, and the army, they had sworn fealty, and divested themselves of all right, as well as power, to cause any disturbance, or alteration for the future.

Three days time was requisite to prepare matters for that fatal hour, wherein they were to make a formal surrender of their liberty; the scaffolds were raised in the place before the castle, and adorned with tapestry; orders were given for the soldiery,

soldiery, and burghers to appear in arms under their respective officers; and when all things were ready, on the 27th of October in the morning, the King, Queen, and Royal Family mounted on a theatre erected for that purpose, and being placed in chairs of state under canopies of velvet, received publickly the homage of all the Senators, Nobility, Clergy, and Commons; which was performed kneeling. The oath, which they were obliged to take, was in these words:

“ I *A. B.* do promise, and declare, that I will be true, and faithful to your Majesty, as my most gracious King and Lord, as also to your Royal Family; that I will endeavour and promote your Majesties interest in all things, and to the best of my power defend you from all danger, and harm; and that I will faithfully serve your Majesty, as a man of honour, and an hereditary subject ought to do. So help me God, &c.”

This oath they were all obliged to pronounce aloud, and some men of quality that were sick, or pretended to be so, were brought in chairs. Among others, one Gersdorf, a principal senator, who was the only man that opened his mouth in the behalf of their expiring liberties, saying, that he hoped, and trusted, that his Majesty designed nothing but the good of his people, and not to govern them after the Turkish manner; but wished his Majesty's successors might follow the ex-
 ample,

ample, which his Majesty would undoubtedly set them, and make use of that unlimited power for the good, and not the harm of his subjects. Not one of the rest spoke a word, or seemed to murmur in the least at what was done ; and it is observable, that among so many great men, who a few days before seemed to have spirits suitable to their birth and qualities, none had the courage during those three last days, either by remonstrance, or any other way, to oppose in any manner what was doing. And I have heard very intelligent persons, who were at that time near the King, affirm, that had the Nobles shewed ever so little courage in asserting their privileges, the King would not have pursued his point so far as to desire an arbitrary dominion : for he was in continual doubt, and dread of the event, and began to waver very much in his resolutions ; so that their liberties seem purely lost for want of some to appear for them.

From the theatre, those that had done homage, went to the Council-House, where the Nobles were called over by name ; and ordered to subscribe the above-mentioned declaration, which they all did.

Thus this great affair was finished, and the kingdom of Denmark in four days time changed from an estate little differing from aristocracy, to as absolute a monarchy as any is at present in the world. The Commons have since experienced, that the
little

little finger of an absolute prince can be heavier than the loins of many Nobles. The only comfort they have left them, being to see their former oppressors in almost as miserable a condition as themselves; whilst all the citizens of Copenhagen have by it obtained the insignificant privilege of wearing swords: so that at this day not a cobbler, or barber stirs abroad without a tilter at his side, let his purse be never so empty. The clergy, who always make sure bargains, were the only gainers in this point; and are still much encouraged by the Court, as the instruments that first promoted, and now keep the people in a due temper of slavery; the passive obedience principle riding triumphant in this unhappy kingdom.

It was but justice, that the Court should pay well the principal contrivers of this great revolution; and therefore, notwithstanding the general want of money, Hannibal Seestede had a present of 200,000 crowns. Swan the superintendent, or bishop, was made archbishop, and had 30,000 crowns. The president, or speaker Nanson, 20,000 crowns. And to the people remained the glory of having forged their own chains, and the advantage of obeying without reserve. A happiness which I suppose no English man will ever envy them.

After this happy reverse of affairs, a settled peace, and as it is said, an unforeseen acquisition of an hereditary crown, a triple alliance 1663,
was

was signed between Denmark, England and Sweden, the main purport of which was, that neither Prince should harbour such as were declared rebels in their own country, which, as to England, respected the murderers of Charles I. and in Denmark count Uhlefelt.

A. D. 1666. Frederic, now freed from all foreign wars, supported by alliances, and by the late revolution, eased of all domestic contention, turned his thoughts entirely to the promoting industry, encouraging commerce, the education of his son, and establishing the affection of his subjects; and on the 16th of May, 1667, the young Prince was married to Charlotte Amelia, daughter to the Landgrave of Hesse.

Frederic had, during the remainder of his reign only, some casual disputes with the house of Holstein, and the Dutch, neither of which terminated in arms, tho' it should seem, that in 1670, a war was intended with the former, which he was preparing for when he was carried off the stage of this life, by a chronical distemper contracted during the late siege of Copenhagen; and died with the character of having approved himself the father of his subjects, tho' they had made themselves his slaves, and did not seem, during his reign, to repent it; nor indeed was it proper, at that juncture, to exert himself on that subject, had his inclination induced; and it will be happy indeed,

deed, for his subjects, if the same conduct appears in future reigns, which we have seen is something more than questionable, and would be disagreeable to repeat.

Frederic III. left issue,

Christian, born 1646, married to the Princess of Hesse.

Anna Sophia, married to the Elector of Saxony, 1666.

Frederica Emilia, married to the Duke of Holstein Gottorp, 1667.

A third daughter, married to the Elector Palatine, 1671.

George, married to the Princess Ann, after Queen of Great Britain, and died in 1701.

Ulrica Eleonora, married to Charles XI. of Sweden, died 1693.

Christian succeeded his father to the crown of Denmark, and notwithstanding what may have been said in honour of Frederic, his care and wisdom towards the recovering the melancholy state of his kingdom's affairs, into which the fate of war had involved them, they yet remained in a very perplexed condition, yet it seems, that in 1675, this Prince declared war against Sweden; thus, either the former is not wholly true, or the latter expresses the Prince's misconduct.

This

This war continued with various success until September 1679, when a peace was concluded; Christian then laid siege to Hamburg, which likewise concluded with a peace in November, and seem only to have been intended to get a good sum of money from that rich city to pay his army, in which he succeeded, as the Hamburgers agreed to pay him 220,000 crowns. 1685, Christian again besieged Hamburg, but do not find that he in any respect succeeded. The remainder of his reign seems to consist in immaterial circumstances until his death, which happened 4th of September 1699, in the 54th year of his age, and 29th of his reign.

Christian was succeeded by his son Frederic IV. and the sequent year the Swedes laid siege to Copenhagen; and in August 1700, Frederic signed the famous treaty of Travendahl. 1708, a war opened again with the Swedes; Christian made himself master of Bremen and Stadt; but soon after was defeated by the Swedes, and his fine city of Altena burnt to the ground. In 1714, he was more successful; in 1720, a peace was concluded with Sweeden; and in 1730 he died.

We find no striking circumstances out of the common road to illustrate the reign of the deceased Monarch, he was succeeded by his son Christian V. On his ascending the throne he made several wise regulations, for the ease and benefit of his subjects;
in

in particular he abolished the farm, or rather monopoly, for the sole vending of brandy, wine, salt and tobacco, because he found it oppressed his subjects.

In 1736, he terminated some disputes with the city of Hamburgh, and received from that city one million of * silver marks. He established a council of trade, and a bank; did every thing possible for promoting arts, sciences and manufactures; and died in 1746, highly regretted and esteemed.

He was succeeded by his son Frederic V. he espoused Princess Louisa, daughter of George II. of Great Britain; who has faithfully copied his father's maxims, and Denmark by that means become a rich and flourishing kingdom.

* This million of marks silver seem a great sum, and would be so if marks of Hamburgh account, but as marks of Denmark, this million must be divided into about 31 parts, as the 4 mark piece is English standard value but D. 32 45, and that the best current; but of this a more correct calculate will appear in due place.

CHAP. II.

The present State of DENMARK.

ON the extraordinary change of affairs pre-mentioned, the Political State of Denmark assumed a new form through every branch of its departments, civil and military, all distinctly calculated to depend entirely on the Sovereign; and in order to encourage commerce, the burthen of taxes has been taken off, as much as possible, from domestic industry, and thrown upon the idle gentry.

Previous to the great revolution, i. e. 1658, some privileges were granted to the trading subjects, some improved grants made them 1661, and in 1702 slavery entirely abolished.

The Nobility likewise have had some concessions made in their favour; they are of two ranks, i. e. Counts and Barons, the Counts are allowed 300, the Barons 100 acres, tax free and tythe free, which are in effect the same thing, as both are in the crown; and these Nobility have besides some shadow of their ancient rights remaining, which will in due place be more especially elucidated.

A new body of laws have been likewise formed, concise, clear and intelligent to the meanest understanding, with a power reserved in the Sovereign to vary or annul at pleasure.

To the clergy, in lieu of the great tythes, and greater estates, some lands have been assigned for their maintainance, with small tythes, and casual perquisites.

The civil and military departments have fallen of course under the immediate direction of the crown. The civil and most lucrative are chiefly entrusted to the burghers, or trading branch of the people; the military in that of the Nobility, after the manner of France.

The three orders of Nobles, Burghers, and Peasants, remain nominally under the same order and distinction as before the revolution, but have neither of them any other interest in affairs of state, than as the Sovereign is pleased to dictate, in whose breast the whole power of taxing the subject vests: some of which taxes are established, and some casual or arbitrary; and those which are fixt, only so because in their nature they cannot well be otherwise, but do not at all interfere with the regal power herein, or any way confine it.

The fixed are the tolls and customs of import and export; an excise on wine, Brandy, tobacco, salt and grain; but the farm of these have been resumed on the complaint of the subject; the remainder fixed duties are upon eatables and drinkables, brought into any town of the royal dominions, independent of the previous excise.

There are smaller taxes of the like fixt kind, as

On matrimonial licences, on stamp paper, brewing, grinding, &c. that is to say, are so far fixt, as that every one knows what he is to pay, tho' the tax on marriages is according to the rank of the parties; and the value of the stamps according to the business they are employed in, which in some cases amount to several rixdollars a sheet.

The casual or arbitray are on land, by a computation of so much as will bear a ton, or last of wheat or rye, and by a parallel calculation in some parts, on the plough of land, according to ancient custom, as formerly in England, where the like mode was pursued; in this case the abilities of the landlord, fertility of the land, and seasons are considered in the imposition.

A Poll tax; this is not laid on all equally, but as the circumstances of the taxed are guessed at, or known; which, tho' exactly right, could it be truly adjusted; but as that cannot possibly be, a great opening is left for abuse.

A Fortification tax, when such is requisite, or deemed so, to keep in perfect repair the defences of the kingdom.

A Marriage tax; when a daughter of Denmark is to be espoused, computed to raise 100,000 crowns.

Trade money. Exclusive of quartering soldiers, this tax is upon every man, as it may be computed he gains by trade; but how that can be computed,

puted, to any degree of certainty, seems a little mysterious.

Ground rent on all houses in Copenhagen, or any other town in Denmark, in which is considered the goodness of the house, the abilities of the possessor, and what sum the King wants to raise.

In Holstein and Sleswic this tax is raised on the plough; paid once a month, and demanded in all the King's dominions of the islands, and in Jutland at pleasure.

All these are independent of the royal domains, fines and confiscations, &c.

It is requisite, before we proceed any farther, to adjust the value of the danish coin, without which it is impossible to be clear and intelligent in the nature or amount of the royal revenue; and this the more necessary, as I have never met in any historian with a correct account; and as this, in effect, concerns our own commerce, as well as the point in view, and as I think many readers will be little the wiser, for having it calculated into French livres, instead of English standard, which is the case of the commercial dictionary, and some others, and that not very correct.

Silver is the only currency in Denmark by which computations are usually made, and my computation being, that an equal weight of standard, or of fine silver, is of equal value. Sir Isaac New-
ton

ton finds, that the four Mark piece silver of

	dw.	g.	mites.	
the worst alloy is	10	9	10	standard
the best — — —	10	10	5	ditto 8
	d.	<hr/>		

so $10 : 9 : 10 = 32 : 23. \frac{1}{2}$. 6 . Mark a rixdollar
 $10 : 10 : 5 = 32 : 45 \frac{1}{2} = 48 \frac{1}{2}$ 67 pence,
 a trifle above four shillings sterling, consequently
 the exchange with England at five rixdollars for a
 pound sterling very just; and upon this plan may
 any other Danish coin be computed, supposing it
 reduced to the like standard; nor need the reader
 be puzzled with any farther calculation about it,
 ever avoiding the historian's error, that a rixdollar
 is equal to 4 s. 6 d. for so they all seem to agree.
 Hence may be readily understood, what is the
 true value of a mark, or of a rixdollar, until we
 come to a complete table in due place.

Soon after the peace with Sweden 1679, Christian, then King, caused a valuation and register to be made of all the houses in the cities and burroughs within his dominions, as likewise an ad-measurement of all lands in the country, that he might with more certainty apportion the taxes he might have occasion to levy. The tax upon houses was set at 4 *per Cent.* of their full value to be sold, and for every house, valued at one hundred rixdollars, the inhabitant is obliged to quarter one soldier, and so many more according to the super value.

As to the toll in the Sound. Foreigners pay $\frac{2}{12}$ more than the natives; the English, French and Dutch, pay alike; other nations what may be by treaty agreed on; the Swedes pass free. The origin of this toll seems to have sprung from an agreement with the commerce passing that way, to contribute towards the keeping up of lights for the common benefit, which at length increased to a claim of right and exaction, not that the fort at Helsinghoar can command the passage, that being above four, and perhaps nearer six miles wide; I speak this from personal knowledge, and the passage of the great Belt still wider, but not in every respect so convenient; nor do I see why the Swedes, on the opposite shore, have not as much right to toll as the Danes, as they just equally command the passage.

This toll has, when the exactions ran high in 1640, raised 300,000 rixdollars annually; in the conclusion of the last century they fell to about 70,000 rixdollars; but what it at present produces, I am not well informed; it is the distinct property of the King's privy purse, so never comes into the hands of the treasurer, or perhaps to any public account.

The taxes in Norway are raised on much the same plan as in Denmark; it is divided into two, the southern and northern provinces; the amount of the revenue from the former is between five
and

and six hundred thousand, of the latter between two and three hundred thousand rixdollars, so may be computed together at about 800,000 rixdollars.

The last branch of the revenue results from hereditary Crown lands, and confiscated estates, but these produce not much, as being rather employed for pleasure than profit, and what may be casually raised therefrom, rather serves to supply the purses of the King's officers, who have the superintendancy of his castles, palaces, parks and forests, than to improve the royal revenue; which is perhaps much the like case in most other countries: so that though it be very difficult to compute the value of this income, some writers estimate it at 200,000 rixdollars.

The whole value of the royal revenue, as calculated at the conclusion of the last century, amounted to two millions and a half of rixdollars; at present the amount is said to be six millions, which is equal to one million two hundred thousand pounds sterling; and if both these calculations be true, Denmark is much improved in wealth and prosperity. But it is probable from speculation, that the running cash of the kingdom, from various occurrences, is as yet but very small, however in some way of improvement, as now a Bank is established at Copenhagen; one improvement naturally produces another, and as trade increases, no doubt the royal revenue augments in proportion,

tion, as well as the circulating cash. Lord Moleworth has given us a tabular state of the revenue 1692, and as far as it may be conceived, this or that article may have since been advanced, so much is the difference in value between that time and the present, for which reason I have judged it not amiss to insert that table.

1692.

Toll of the Sound,	—	—	65,000
Customs, farmed at,	—	—	165,000
Excise of Copenhagen,	—	—	140,000
Of the rest of Denmark,	—	—	140,000
Smaller taxes,	—	—	100,000
Toll, fortification, ground rents and hard corn taxes	—	—	} 1000,000
Norway revenue,	—	—	
Royal domains,	—	—	200,000
Iceland, farmed at,	—	—	27,000
Oldenburg and Delmenhorst,	—	—	80,000
Toll upon the Weser,	—	—	5,000

Rixdollars 2622,000

But as the Poll and Fortification tax are never raised the same year, there must be deducted out of the above sum 400,000, and then the sum total will be 2,222,000 rixdollars.

I have only to conclude this article by observing, that whatever the computed account of the

royal revenue may have heretofore been, or now is, it is generally to be considered as neat cash brought into the treasury.

The Natural Policy of DENMARK.

I SHALL now presume, that, according to modern calculation, the revenues of Denmark amount to one million two hundred thousand pounds sterling, besides a permanent French subsidy, which it seems the interest of that crown to continue. This to us seems but little, but when it is considered, that so long as sound policy reigns supreme, and nothing conceived in the councils of state, tending to ambition and warlike pursuits, a very good army and navy may be kept up, the Prince supported in elegance and dignity, and the subjects no farther oppressed; a moderate œconomy will effect all this, and the people be in a condition, by the arts of peace, gradually to retrieve the ancient splendor and prosperity of their country.

The mistaken policy of this crown has heretofore been a perpetual quarrel with the Swedes, consequent of the famous treaty of Calmar, upon a supposition that both kingdoms must necessarily be united, and the supremacy be in Denmark, which might not in any sense be concluded either natural or reasonable, and still as little to be presumed, that after the superior strength of Sweden
had

had been experimented, that the Province of Schonen, connected with the Swedish territory, and separated by the Baltic sea, from any part of the Danish dominions, should remain possessed by the crown of Denmark ; at last a certain circumstance occurs, that must in all rational conception, not only point out to these long contending monarchies the necessity of peace, but also an established union of interests, as Russia is now that rising power, which imminently threatens the destruction of both ; and tho' Sweden may, and probably will be the first sacrifice, as at present unsupported, the which, if it happens, Denmark will not long after probably be an independent crown ; so that the whole policy of this monarchy rests on being upon good terms with its neighbours.

The Military DEPARTMENT.

IT has been previously computed, that the revenues of the crown amounts to 6,000,000 rixdollars equal to 1,200,000 l. sterling, we shall here see how a considerable part of it is disposed.

It is not absolutely certain what number of troops the crown of Denmark entertains, but have some authority to place them here on the common average at 36,000 *, of which 10,000 may be horse and dragoons, besides 5,000 reserves, who are a kind of militia, who have cloathing as the troops, but no pay.

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That

* They now amount to 59,747.

That it may be understood at what expence these troops are maintained, it is only requisite to give the entire charge of one great regiment of foot, of 19 companies, and containing 2128 officers and men, the whole of which amounts to no more than ninety thousand rixdollars, or eighteen thousand pounds sterling a year, about equal to one-third expence of the like number in Great Britain; or as 36,000 is to 12,000.

In the port of Copenhagen are maintained three thousand seamen in constant pay; that is to say, they have some small allowance in money, and the ordinary provisions of the common people, as salt, meat, stock fish, grout, &c. for the support of themselves and families, and barracks in the out skirts of the town, where they leave their wives, &c. when they go to sea, the whole expence, besides provision, is twenty-four thousand rixdollars a year; and all the officers are in pay, as well in harbour as at sea.

The whole Danish fleet consists of thirty-two ships of war, twenty of which are of the line, or bear fifty guns, or upwards, the residue frigates of various force, from 48 down to 16 guns.

Fortifications, which are a branch of the military, may be deferred here, as there will be an absolute necessity, of bringing them again in question, when we come to a particular description of his
Danish

Danish Majesty's territories, as part of the subject of the ensuing chapter.

The Geography of DENMARK.

THE ancient kingdom of Denmark is composed of two large several smaller Islands, and the Peninsula of Jutland. The Islands are Zealand, Fumen, Falsbria, Laaland, Langland, Mona, Samsoc, Arroë, Bornholm, Anhout, Lef-saw, and Amak, separated from each other, and from Jutland, by the Baltic, Cattegat, and the greater and lesser Belts or Channels, that form alike, as the Sound, an open passage from the German ocean into the Baltic sea, except Bornholm, that lies about 25 leagues to the eastward of Zealand, very distinct from all others.

The extraneous parts, included in the dominions of Denmark, are, an undivided moiety of the Dutchy of Holstein, Stormar, Ditmarsh, and the Earldoms of Oldenburgh and Delmenhorst.

Jutland is divided into north and south, the north part, or division, is the hereditary dominion of the Crown of Denmark; the south division is the Dutchy of Sleswic, equally the right of that Crown, and of the Duke of Holstein Gottorp.

When a line is drawn from the German ocean, between these two divisions through the body of Jutland, due east and west to the extremity of Zealand in the Baltic sea, it fixes the center of these roval dominions in the latitude of 54 degrees, 40 minutes.

minutes. Of Norway, and its appurtenants, we shall speak in its proper place.

Zealand the largest Island, and whereon the metropolis is seated, is of something near a round form; its extent from north to south is 60, and from east to west sixty-five English miles; the face of the country is generally flat, and the soil sandy; in some parts so very loose, as to be subject to drifting in high winds, and until a method was taken to fix it, threatened to overwhelm the adjacent villages; in other parts the sand is more mixt and loamy. The country in general is prettily diversified, with little hills and vales, woods, forests and lakes, embellished with castles, palaces and country-seats, dispersed over every part of the island. The natural lightness of the soil will not admit the growth of wheat to any advantage; and as it has been found by long experience, that rye best suits it, and is raised in reasonable quantity, but not to spare for exportation; in such a soil there is no expectation of extended ranges of verdant meads, the chief pasturage is from bents that rise after the reaping of the corn; and where the moisture ledges on the edges, and in the breaks and intervals between the corn lands, on which is fed a moderate store of sheep and black cattle, or hay made therefrom to support the winter stock.

The country is no doubt capable of being improved for the purpose both of corn and cattle;
but

but the peasantry, if equally industrious, are not in a condition to pursue improvements, being hard rented, hard laboured, and hard taxed, enjoying very little they can call their own; and tho' redeemed by a royal edict from feudal slavery, have rather lost the name than the thing; but late writers say, that the cultivation of grain has been considerably improved, particularly with oats and barley, which is probable, as such kinds of grain are well enough suited to the soil.

The country is generally supplied with fish from the lakes, and that side of the island next the inlets of the German ocean, as on the Baltic side they are very scarce, by reason, as it may be supposed, that the water of this sea is neither salt nor fresh; it is not well suited to any kind of fish, yet on the coast of Bornholm, about 70 miles to the eastward of Zealand, several sorts of sea fish are moderately plenty.

The woods and forests are very well stocked with deer and game of all kinds; but as those usually belong to the King, and are most generally appropriated to the supply of his table, but little may be presumed at market.

The major part of flesh meat is supplied from Jutland, poultry, butter, cheese, eggs and bacon, principally from the adjacent isle of Amack; salt, and dried fish from Norway; and wheat, tho' not greatly used, from various parts of the Danish dominions, and from Dantzic, an eminent free city

on the confines of Poland, in the Baltic sea, to the eastward of Denmark, and originally constructed by the Danes.

The boundaries of Zealand are, the Cattegat to the north, the great Belt on the west, the Sound, and the Baltic sea, on the east and south coasts.

This island, nor indeed all the sea coasts of Denmark, afford more than one eminent sea port, or where any considerable commerce is pursued; this is Copenhagen, the Metropolis of the Kingdom, it is seated very commodiously on the east side of Zealand, as shall be more particularly noticed in due place.

The principal towns, besides Copenhagen, in this island are, Roschild, Kiog, and Helsingør; the air is generally more temperate than in the same latitude on the continent, but at the same time more subject to fogs and vapours from the marshes, and several surrounding waters; but as the country is flat, and the winds have a free passage, it may be said to be moderately healthy, but not calculated for long life; or the avoiding those distempers of the breast and lungs, incident to all flat countries superabounding in moisture.

Here, as in all Denmark, are but two seasons of the year, Winter and Summer, that immediately close on each other; the summer months June, July, and August, are usually more sultry hot than in England, and every part of insect and vegetable

vegetable life, burst of a sudden into existence, and soon arrive at maturity ; so that no sooner the icy particles of the air vanish, than the snow disappears, and all around is spread with an agreeable verdure ; the cattle are turned out to feed, and the inhabitants, who have leisure from more important concerns, divert themselves with rural recreations.

COPENHAGEN particularly described.

THIS city, in the middle of the 12th century, was only a small fishing town ; in the year 1168, Wide, a Danish bishop, constructed a castle on the spot for the defence of the coast against pirates, at that time swarming in the Baltic. The convenience of the situation, and security the castle afforded, induced many of the inhabitants of the island to resort thither ; from which time, under various interruptions, it gradually rose into its present splendor ; 1254, it was created an Episcopal See ; and in 1443, became the regal seat of Denmark. But it was not until the year 1728, that the foundation was laid of its present handsome appearance, before which time even the Royal Palace made but a very mean appearance.

On the 20th of October, 1728, a fire broke out at a mean house near the West-gate, and proceeded with such fury, that within the compass of forty-eight hours the greatest part of the city was consumed to ashes.

It is rebuilt in a much more elegant manner, and its now form the object of my present description.

This City, according to Busching's account, is in extent, from the West-gate to the Norway-gate in the citadel, 4140 * Seeland ells; and from the North-gate to the Amack-gate 3120 ells, whence he concludes it must be in circuit 12,600 ells. And the Gother-street, which runs in a strait line across the whole city, more than 4,200 feet long, the breadth of the King's market, and area about the new harbour included; and contains four royal palaces, 10 parish churches, 9 chapels, a considerable number of Noblemens, and 4000 Burghers houses, eleven markets and public squares, 1860 streets, and 100,000 inhabitants.

Since the year 1746, the annual births have amounted on the average to 2592, and the burials to 2594, which is nearly equal to one-tenth of the like casualties within the bills of mortality, that circumscribe the Cities of London and Westminster.

This City is divided into three principal parts, Old Copenhagen, New Copenhagen, and Christ-

* To adjust the magnitude of Copenhagen by the above measurement, the reader is first to understand what measure an ell is, Lord Molesworth says $\frac{3}{4}$ of an English ell; Postlethwait $\frac{4}{5}$, or one yard; and Busching, that 12,600 ells is equal to a geographical mile, $\frac{1}{15}$ of which is equal to a degree, and consequently to 69 English statute miles; therefore a geographical mile by the same rule = $4 \frac{9}{15}$ English miles, the circuit of Copenhagen.

ian Shafen, the two latter having been chiefly constructed since the conflagration, are laid out in broad streets, running in a streight line, intersecting each other at right angles ; the houses in the principal streets and areas are chiefly built of brick ; in the lanes and bye streets most generally of timber, filled up with brick, or what we call Cage-work, but upon the whole, make a very handsome appearance.

In the strand quarter is the magnificent new royal palace of Christiansburg, constructed by Christian VI. 1740. On the first story in this palace the ladies and gentlemen in waiting have their apartments ; on the same floor, is the royal treasury, and private cash-office, the King's court of justice, the burghers court, and the superintendence office, or what is called in England the board of works ; in the second story are the royal apartments, and the supreme court of judicature ; and in the third story are the apartments of the Prince Royal.

To the palace, the Chancery is connected by a Corridor ; in the lowest story, which is vaulted, is the repository of the archives ; in the second story, the Privy Council, the Chanceries of both kingdoms, and of the German dominions, the military colleges, and the college of finances ; the third story is chiefly occupied by the officers of the treasury.

In the building called the edifice, on the first story, is the arsenal ; on the second, the King's

library, 200 foot long, and contains 70,000 volumes, arranged after the manner of the *Biblioteca della Minerva* at Rome; in the third, are the royal cabinet of curiosities, the picture gallery, and the cabinet of medals; and in the 4th story, the cabinet of models.

This palace has a very noble appearance, and as being free and detached from any other buildings, commands a very happy prospect every way; but what the form of this building is, or on what plan of architecture constructed, or on what general, or particular proportion designed, is not, as I can find, any where apparent.

The next thing that merits notoriety in this city, seems to be the church of the Trinity in the Rosenberg quarter, the tower of which is said to be a master-piece of the kind, designed by the celebrated astronomer, Christian Longomontan; its form is round, the height 115 feet, the diameter 54 feet, flat on the top, surrounded with an iron ballustrade; the ascent is spiral, and so spacious and easy, that a coach and horses may pass up and down with facility, as was experimented by Peter the great, Emperor of Russia, 1716.

This tower was designed for an observatory, but all the curious instruments collected by Tyche Brahe, Olaus Romer and others, and deposited herein, were destroyed in the dreadful conflagration 1728. Amongst the rest a large celestial globe, valued at 5,000 rixdollars. After the fire, Christian

tian VI. presented the library with many curious books, and such valuable instruments, as could be procured, to supply the place of those destroyed, which has been since improved by various other donations, and is open five days in the week, for the inspection of the inquisitive. Inscribed on the tower, is a semi-hieroglyphical inscription, the meaning of which is.

Doctrinam & justitiam dirige, Jehova, in corde coronati Christiani quarti, 1642.

In the east quarter is a large building, called the general Commission Office, erected by Frederic IV. 1704; at this office the united colleges of the Admiralty, and general commission assemble; the other naval offices will be mentioned in the proper place.

In this quarter is also the little palace of Charlottenburg, and the academy of the royal cadets. This structure Frederic IV. intended at first for an Opera-house, but altered his intention, and converted it to a much better use; in 1720, he assigned it to the land cadets, and about five years after removed thither the marine cadets; where each division have their separate apartments and exercising rooms; they are supplied with lodging, cloathing, fire, candle, and a monthly pension sufficient to find them diet, and are instructed at the King's expence, by able masters, in all the requisite

quisite sciences; each company is under the inspection of its proper officers, and are a nursery for the army and navy.

In the west quarter is the royal palace of Rosenburg, erected by Christian IV. 1604; it is a handsome structure in the semi Gothic taste, decorated with one large, and two small towers, like the Tower of London, is surrounded by a ditch, and antique fortification, plain with embrasures; it has its own commanding officer, but the guard is from time to time relieved by the city garrison. The gardens are very extensive, and embellished with a variety of ornaments; in summer they are the public walks, and sometimes the Royal Family reside here a few days.

In the great room, which takes up the whole extent of the palace on the third story, are five pieces of painting by Kroak, twelve pieces of tapestry, representing the achievements of Christian V. and three silver lions, which on the King's inauguration are placed round the throne; in two cabinets adjacent, the old and new regalia, some other jewels, and an entire service of gold are kept; in one other cabinet is a collection of curious drinking, and other glass vessels, and in a third apartment the royal throne.

The Naval DEPARTMENT.

AS this is an object that in a more particular manner demands the reader's attention, I shall

shall be more large and explicit in the description. The port consists of two parts, the road before the city, and the royal harbour; the road is formed on the west by the little isle of Amak, and the city; it much resembles our Downes, and is covered on the east by an island, called the Salt Holm, and some other sand banks, as the Downes by the Goodwin sands. This road is very capacious, and good anchorage on a clean sand; and I have seen in distinct convoys, and native trade, more than three hundred sail of ships at anchor; at the same time, it is in some measure guarded by the same capital fortification, as at the same time commands the entrance into the Royal Haven, but the road is too extensive to be guarded against all belligerent consequences; from this road the city makes a very handsome appearance, and the adjacent country presents a very agreeable prospect.

Between the isle of Amak, and the city, is the channel that composes the royal harbour, in which the ships of war belonging to the crown of Denmark are laid up, and from thence casually fitted out. This island is connected with and made part of the city; it joins it by two bridges, and the haven that is in part formed by it, is inclosed with storehouses and workshops, for the service of the shipping; it is about ten miles in circuit, and supplies the city with all such provisions as result from plentiful dairies, and kitchen gardens, and
for

for that reason extremely well adapted to a naval station, and much-resorted sea-port; at Christian Shafen, on this island, is a fine dock-yard, where the navy ships are built and refitted; and between Christian Shafen, and the city, a pillar is erected in the middle of the water, on which is the statue of a naked female; on her left side stands the figure of a swan, which extends its neck behind her back, and bringing its head over the right shoulder, sticks its bill in the mouth of the statue. The pillar and statue are taken for a symbolical representation of the city of Copenhagen, or may have been so of any other sea-port, as the same was found during the war, 1611, near Calmar in Sweden, and thence conveyed to Copenhagen.

This island is chiefly inhabited by a colony of Hollanders or Flemings, invited thither in 1516. They furnish a market in the city, named after the island, in much the same manner as our Covent-garden is supplied, with the addition of dairy products.

I have just mentioned, in the preceding pages, some particulars respecting the Danish navy, in which I shall now be more explicit; it consists of 34 ships of the line, 16 frigates, and an uncertain number of light vessels, called gallies; since the year 1755, the seamen, which are in constant pay, consist of four divisions, each division of ten companies, with a company of artillery, amounting together to 4,400 men.

The

The number of registered seamen, with which the fleet may be manned on an emergency, is 24,000, who in Denmark are distributed in six districts, and the same in Norway, under the direction of certain officers for that purpose appointed. The seamen in pay work on the Holm, where the shipping lie in rows, and have their quarters in certain barracks for that use established; and taking all things together, Denmark makes a very considerable figure as a naval power.

The fortifications that inclose the city, are generally formed of earth, and the slopes of the glaces of greenswarth, from whence many conclude, this city little able to resist the attacks of a judicious enemy for any long time; but if experience had not evinced the contrary, a little reflection would have informed, that a city, five miles in circuit, with a suitable garrison every way well supplied, needs but very moderate fortifications for its defence, and of those meer earth, well rammed and settled, are not the worst; and as this city can always command 30,000 regular troops, besides the burghers; and has constantly in store a vast profusion of every thing requisite both for defence and offence, and a strong navy always at hand, so far as military skill may presume, it is not very probable, that any army will ever be brought before it, able to effect any thing material, and this more especially when it is considered, that eight months in the year are but ill calculated

culated for action, and when it appears from a late list, that the land forces kept constantly on foot in Denmark and Norway, amount to 59,289 men, and these maintained at as little or less expence than 20,000 in the service of Great Britain.

The Trade of DENMARK.

IT is said by those who write about Denmark under this head, that Copenhagen enjoys the most commodious situation for navigation and commerce, and might be made the centre of the important trade of the north, and in particular that carried on in the Baltic, if a staple was established in that city.

This in theory appears very pretty, and with an if, at the tail of it appears very specious; to this are but two plain objections, the one that situation is the least part of the matter, the other, that trade is in quite another channel; but it might happen, that if Copenhagen could amass as much wealth as London, Bristol, Liverpool, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Bourdeaux and Marseilles, and at the same time find judicious merchants to employ it, in such case Copenhagen might have some chance to become the center of commerce, as great things have been done by ports much more seemingly incommodious, as Wisbuy on the isle of Gothland, &c. but these are dreams of men awake. It may be sufficient as to truth, and facts, that the wisdom of the latter Danish Princes, have done much for
their

their country; and if the like wisdom continues prevalent, may in a course of time do much more.

Formerly all the trade to Denmark was carried on by the Hanse towns, they were supplanted by the Dutch and English, until the reign of Christian the third, when the Danes began to conduct their own commerce, which has been from that time to this gradually increasing; so that in the year 1752, there passed the Sound 850 sail of ships, which, as from the Baltic only, make no contemptible figure.

In the last century there were scarce any manufactures carried on in Denmark, they were first introduced by Frederic IV. and Christian VI. and appear in a very thriving way, and more probably so, as the manufactures of all other countries are prohibited; tho' by the way this course must alter, if the Danes expect any benefit by the export, as it is buying and selling that makes up the sum and substance of trade, but for the present a local plan may answer very well. There are now in Denmark very skilful mechanics, in almost every branch of business; and in 1738 a general magazine was opened at the Exchange to which the manufacturers bring all the wares, they cannot find vent for in the other towns, and are paid ready money for them, and which are again delivered out on credit to retailers.

This Exchange is a handsome edifice, in the Gothic taste, in length 406, in breadth $66\frac{1}{2}$ feet, chiefly erected by Christian IV. 1624, the lowest

story is disposed in warehouses, very commodious for the merchants, as on both sides there are canals, where the ships may lie close to them to lade and unlade; in the second story, on the north side, the dealers usually meet; in the middle, and down the whole length on both sides, are ranges of shops; and in one wing, on the south side, is the Royal Bank; and in the other, the Royal Magazine, where the undisposed manufactures, as pre-mentioned, are deposited.

The principal trading companies are, the Asiatic, erected with royal approbation in 1616, and confirmed by charter 1698; they have a settlement at Tranquebar, on the coast of Coromandel, and send annually some ships to China; the circle of which trades are too well known in England, and too much felt too, to need any relation here; as no India trade can turn out any benefit to a nation, but as it must sensibly injure some other part of Europe. The fund for this commerce is said to be in high credit, as in 1755 300,000 rixdollars was added to the main stock.

The West-India company, formerly a monopoly, was 1754 laid open to the natives of Denmark, Norway and Sleswic; in 1755 the King established an African company, with a capital of 500 actions, each of 500 rixdollars, divided between thirteen adventurers.

A general trading company, established by royal charter, was instituted, as designed to carry on
such

such branches of trade, as private adventurers might not be able to undertake, and to answer the purpose of an academy for the training up youth in the science of commerce; they were incorporated 1747. The actions are 1000, at 500 rixdollars each, but only 300 paid in on each capital; the remainder as in the like cases accustomed, subject to an arbitrary call.

This general trade is to the different ports in Europe, and to Greenland on the whale fishery, happily enough considered, as the gain of one branch, may occasionally counterbalance the loss of another.

The Iceland and Finmark company have a distinct charter; it is an absolute monopoly, determinable 1771.

In the general trade, the commerce is open to private adventurers, and many pursue it on their own bottoms. In Denmark the imports exceed the exports; but in Norway quite the reverse; but upon the whole, if the expence of the shipping be cleared, the nation will be gradually enriched.

There is calculated, to support and encourage trade, an Assignment Exchange, or Loan Bank, erected 29 October 1736. Their notes are drawn from 100 to 10 rixdollars, and pass as current specie at the public offices, and all over the Danish dominions. This Bank lends on pledge, great or small sums, not less than 100 rixdollars, at 4 *per cent.* The capital is 500,000 rixdollars; and
tho',

tho', as in all such cases necessarily happens, their circulating notes far exceed their capital, yet is their stock in good credit, and their actions much above par; the value plainly resulting from the super credit, as otherwise a capital so disposed could not be presumed, tho' in full business, and no losses, to produce more than three *per cent.* which is not above half the natural interest in Denmark.

There is also an Insurance Office for shipping, established by charter; and this is presumed to have good business, as seldom less than 3,000 sail of vessels, in foreign trade and coasters, are entered at the custom-house, within the circle of the year, and most of these insure, as that is done on easy terms, and makes trade more certain.

Thus we see, what may probably be the present state of commerce in Denmark, and which, if it can be supported on the present footing, may, as the monopolies waste away, and the commerce opens, become in a moderate course of time, under the dictature of wise and judicious rulers, a rich and flourishing kingdom.

The basis of trade is cash, nominal or real, in specie, bullion or account; this therefore seems the proper place, to be particular in respect to these; as also of the weights and measures of Denmark.

Accounts are kept in rixdollars, marcks and schillings, Dantz.

Account.		Current specie.
3 penins	1 schilling.	6 marcks 1 rixdollar.
16 schillings	1 marck.	4 rixdollars 1 rosenoble.
24 ditto	1 oort.	2 rixdollars 1 ducat.
4 oorts	1 rixdollar.	4 marcks 1 flechtdollar.
6 marcks	ditto.	16 schellings 1 marck.
5 rixdollars	1 l. sterling.	

I do not know of any gold account in this country ; I have previously given the intrinsic value of a marck and rixdollar, as reduced to English standard.

The current specie when in its regulated state ; 68 marcks Danish, is coined from eight ounces of pure silver ; and eight ounces of pure silver being = 576 pence ; and sixty-eight marcks = 544 pence, there remains 32 pence sterling, or about half an ounce for alloy ; but as in absolute monarchies the standard is often varied to answer partial purposes, and has been often the case in Denmark, however the Prince in such conduct mistaken, the true value can only, from time to time, be ascertained by assay, and a better knowledge of what is the real value of an ounce weight, before any correct calculation can be made of the true par of exchange, other than has been already given.

Weights and Measures.

THESE are extremely necessary to be known in trade, as from thence the ascertaining of value must necessarily spring, but it is our misfortune to be as ill informed in this particular, as in many others, the commercial dictionary gives them in the following manner.

The weight of heavy goods, is the schippond of 320 pounds; it is divided into 20 lisponds, and each lispond into 161.

The pound is less than that of France by about $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. the ell is $\frac{1}{3}$ less than that of Holland, and equal to an English yard.

The 100 feet of Copenhagen, make $103 \frac{1}{3}$ at Amsterdam.

I have mentioned in the preceding pages, how Lord Moleworth gives the pound and ell, both different from the above; and as to the measure of the feet, I find we must go to Amsterdam for plenary satisfaction; and to France for the value of the pound weight; and then the French have various weights of the like denomination, reduced in Mr. HORSLEY'S *Universal Merchant*, to the following English par.

Troy grains.

Paris, 2 marcks, 16 ounce weight, con-	}	7,560.
tains English — — —		

English Troy pound, 12 ounces	—	5,760.
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So that the English pound Troy is to the French double marck, as 16 is to 21.

Again,

Again,
 The Paris ounce weighs English Troy } 472 5
 grains, — — — }
 The English Troy ounce contains 480
 So that that English Troy ounce, is to } 64 to 63
 the Paris ounce, as — — — }
 The English Averdupois pound weighs } 7004
 Troy grains, — — — }
 The Averdupois ounce 16 to the pound } 437—75
 = Troy grains, — — — }
 Consequently the Troy to the Averdupois pound,
 is as 88 to 107 nearly.

As also the Troy to the Averdupois ounce, as 80
 to 73 nearly.

And the Averdupois pound, and ounce, to the
 Paris 2 mark weight, and ounce, as 63 to 68
 nearly.

And as these weights were so adjusted between
 our Royal Society, and the Royal Academy at
 Paris, I have no doubt of their being at least to-
 lerably correct; and from hence may the value of
 the Danish weights be deduced, if one could rightly
 conceive, what is intended by the expression $\frac{1}{4}$ per
 cent. in the light it there appears.

The Islands belonging to DENMARK.

THESE require but a brief description, the
 principle and first in place is the isle of Fu-
 nen. To the west of Zealand, between the great

and little Belts, two capital channels out of the German ocean into the Baltic sea; the greater separating Funen from Zealand, the lesser from Jutland, from north to south about fifty, and from east to west about forty English miles, so that like Zealand the form is almost round.

This island, considering its situation and latitude, is extremely pleasant and fertile, and so much esteemed by the Danes in preference as to be the chief conflux of the Nobility, whose seats are dispersed over the whole face of the country.

The crops of grain, as rye, barley, oats and buck wheat, are reasonably plenty, so as in good seasons to export considerable quantities, and the inhabitants raise a sufficient stock of fruits, vegetables and honey; it has several fresh-water lakes and rivers abounding in fish, but none that are navigable, nor any good harbour, but several bays, where is tolerable riding for ships, and whereto sea fish resort in plenty.

The whole island is divided into five ampts, or prefectures, the principal of which is Nybourg, a fortified town on the great Belt; it is well built, and commodiously situate; to this town is the passage over from Korfor in Zealand; and here the toll is received from all ships passing into the Baltic by this Canal.

Odense, the next prefecture, is a very ancient town, and the capital of the diocese; it is situate
in

in a plain, on a river that empties itself about two miles below the town into the bay or Gulph of Steges Strand; this city carries on a considerable manufacture in the leather branch, is especially famous for gloves, and has also manufactures of cloth, soap, and sugar; it employs in foreign trade and coasting 34 large ships, and above 100 smaller vessels, and as many arrive annually from other ports. In 1701 a subsidy treaty was concluded here between England, Denmark and Holland; and in 1724 a trading company established by charter.

The third prefecture is Rugaard; Bovenſe the chief town, carries on some trade with Norway, and in this town and the adjacent country a considerable manufactory of rugs and blankets is carried on, and a great quantity of cummin-seed raised; it is seated on the little Belt, and the common passage is from hence to Klackring in Jutland.

The fourth is Hindsgavel; it is seated on a promontory in the little Belt, was anciently a royal palace, and near it is the little island of Fanoe, remarkable for good pasture lands, fine woods, and substantial peasants.

The fifth is Affens, likewise seated on the little Belt, of which nothing remarkable appears, but that the common passage is from hence to Aaroe Sundsfarge in Jutland, and export some corn.

The Island of Langeland.

THIS is a long narrow island at the south entrance of the great Belt, its length about 35, its breadth about five miles, it trends nearly north and south, and has one channel between it and Funen, and one other between it and Zealand; it was formerly a principality, appendant to the Princes of the blood, at present a county, and esteemed for its natural fertility one of the best in Denmark.

There is on this Island only one town, Rudkio-bing, and that but small, fortified on the land side, with a wall and ditch, its trade is chiefly corn and provisions, and is under the same general governor as Funen,

LAALAND *or* LOLLAND.

LAALAND is likewise seated at the south entrance of the great Belt, separated on the east from Falster by a narrow streight, and from Langeland by a channel about fifteen miles over; its dimension is about 35 by 15 miles, and is remarkably fertile for that climate, it produces wheat and pease of the best qualities, and the other grains in common. Also a particular kind of fruit the natives call manna, it grows on a long slender stem, its colour red, and its taste much like sweet almonds.

The towns on this island are, Naskow, the principal, it is inclosed with a single wall, and has a pretty good harbour.

Rodbye, a market town, with a very commodious harbour, and much corn is from thence exported.

Maricboc, seated on a lake, the Provincial Courts are held here, and from hence a considerable trade is carried on coast-wise.

Nyftad, is a small flourishing town, and carries on a considerable trade to Mecklenburg, and other ports in Germany.

Saxkiobing, is a small town, seated on a fruitful plain, and carries on a corn trade coast-wise in flat-bottomed vessels.

This island has a particular governor, but in spiritual affairs, is under the inspection of the diocese of Funen.

FALSTAR.

THIS island is situate between Laaland and Zealand, its dimension about 30 by 12 miles, it yields grain in common with the neighbouring islands, but is most noted for the abundance of fruit it produces ; it is usually the Queen of Denmark's dower, and has been ordinarily the residence of the Queen Dowager ; it has but one town of any consequence, Nyekiobing, fortified on
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on the land-side with a wall and ditch, and carries on a considerable trade.

NORTH JUTLAND.

THIS is one part, or division of the great Peninsula, bounded on the north and west by the German ocean, on the east by the Cattegat, and on the south by the rivers Kolding and Skotburg, which divide it from the dutchy of Sleswic, or what is usually called South Jutland; the dimension of this division is about 150 by 80 miles; the center is principally heath and moorland, but the extents moderately rich and fertile; it raises and exports great quantities of grain, and vast numbers of lean black cattle, horses and hogs; in the lakes, and on the coasts, are very considerable fisheries, and several very tolerable harbours, but these chiefly on the Cattegat, or east side, which is prettily diversified with hills, vales and woods, with abundance of small streams, but only one capital river, the Gunden, supplied by forty rivulets, and after a course of about 120 miles, empties itself into the Cattegat, and is several miles navigable.

The air of this country, especially towards the north sea, is very keen, but appears by the robust habit of the natives to be very healthy.

North Jutland was formerly divided into nine districts, which are now abolished, as the Royal Judicature takes place, which has formed it into four general governments derivative from the four chief cities, Aalberg, Wiberg, Aarhuis and Ripen.

The Dutchy of SLESWIC.

THIS Dutchy, commonly called South Jutland, is bounded to the north by the rivers Kolding and Skotburg, with some little interval of the continent, to the east, by part of the little Belt, and the Baltic-sea, to the west by the German ocean, and to the south by the river Eider, and a small neck of land, of about three miles, between the said river, and a sea inlet, at the head of which is seated the town of Kiel. It is a royal Fief of Denmark, and severed, as above, on the south from Holstein, and the German dominions, as appears by the following Pentameter verse, cut on the Holstein gate, at Rendsburg, which stands close to the Eider.

Eydori Romani terminus Imperii.

Its extent from Rensburg to Koldingen is about ninety, and its mean breadth about forty-five miles. The face of the country is rather level than hilly, and no mountains of any significant altitude.

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This Dutchy, having been from time to time possessed by the younger branches of the royal house of Denmark, and from that crown held in fee, has been subject of much contention for ages; but is now presumed to be determined in favour of the crown, Frederic IV. having assumed the regality in 1714, which was confirmed to him by the treaty of Stockholm, 1720; to which the Emperor, the Kings of England, France, Spain and Sweden, and the Republics of Poland and Holland, were guarantees; and as the whole Dutchy was then incorporated with the kingdom of Denmark, the King ordered the two lions, which are the arms of Sleswic, to be expunged out of the Holstein escutcheon.

This Dutchy is now governed by a Stadtholder of the King's appointment, and divided into cities, prefectures, districts, hardes, birkes, parishes, manors and sloges; and the cities have their particular magistrates, independent of the prefectures, but all the other divisions are subject thereto.

The government is, by the common law, contained in the old Codex, except some towns, which retain their municipal laws. The supreme Court is held at Gottorp, and has four sessions in a year. The Provincial Court is held once a year in Easter week; it consists of the Stadtholder, four Noblemen, four Counsellors, a Recorder, Notary and Secretary.

Sleswic,

Sleswic, the capital, was once a fine town, and stands in a very pleasant country, but since the removal of the Duke, is gone much to decay, and the river Sley, by which its commerce was conducted, is quite choaked up, and become useless.

An Account of NORWAY.

THIS ancient kingdom, this wild romantic country, is bounded on the west and south by the German ocean, on the north by the north sea, and on the east by Lapland and Sweden, and separated from the latter by a long chain of mountains, its extent north and south about 960 miles, the mean width about 250 miles.

The air in most parts is pure and salubrious, but more in the middle and on the east, than on the west, or other boundaries on the ocean; because of the resulting damps, whence spring scorbutic disorders, rheums, &c. The cold is not any way prejudicial, as not only the natives are hardened to it, but as likewise being well provided with all necessary defence.

In the eastern parts the winter sets in about the middle of October, and usually breaks up, about the middle of April. The cold, during that season, is very intense, but the air generally very clear. The falls of snow, during this season, are very great, and is often the cause of bringing down

large flakes from the mountains, to the terror, and often the destruction of the inhabitants below; their houses and castle, on the other hand, the lodgment of snow, in the vales and meadows, is a sure prognosticate of a happy summer's product, of grain and herbage; supposing a proper body of soil, which is not always the case in this kingdom, and it happens very lucky for this region, that when it is hard weather in the inland, it is usually soft and moderate on the coast; so that while it is convenient for the inhabitants of the former to bring their goods on sledges to markets, the latter engage themselves in the fisheries; so that notwithstanding the seeming unfavourableness of the season, all are employed in some lucrative pursuit.

The summer heats, owing to the reflection of the sun-beams on the mountains, and the earth in the vales, having been kept warm during the winter, by the lodgment of the snow, is the cause that grain springs up and ripens suddenly, so that often only nine weeks intervene between seed time and harvest.

The sea coast, especially on the western shore, is high, bold and rocky, sprinkled all along with little extraneous islands, that at once guard the coast, and form a kind of harbours, very happy for such shipping as violent weather may have drove on the coast; and as the water in these is
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generally too deep for anchor-hold, great iron rings are here and there fixed in the rocks for holdfasts; and ships seemingly at sea, thus covered, ride in smooth water, and secure as in a regular haven; between these extraneous rocks and the land, are in many places long ranges of sandbanks, that feed innumerable shoals of fish, which, when taken and dried by the frost in winter, or salted in the summer, make a considerable part of the commerce of this country.

As the face of this country is an irregular commixture of mountains and rocks, hills and vales, the rains and melting of the snows, that naturally attend the approach of summer, produce in course a vast number of rivulets and lakes, swift currents and immense water-falls, all significant in their respective operations as to beauty or profit, and in many parts of the kingdom not only furnish the most enchanting scenes, but produce infinite great quantities of fish, and cloath all nature with a most delightful verdure; the more pleasing to the natives, as it varies the prospect upon them after a long melancholy winter.

These water-falls, currents and streams, are eminently serviceable to the trade of this country, as they are the means of bringing down the timber, that grows in profusion on the mountains, to the shipping in the bays and harbours; and that this may be effected with the more safety, booms strongly

secured are laid athwart the streams at the foot of the water-fall, to impede the violent range of the floats, and preventing injury to the timber; and as a farther convenience near these water-falls, are placed great number of sawing mills.

The trees of this country are, elm, ash, beech, oaks, yew, birch, aspen, juniper, alder, and both species of pine and fir, of the two latter and the oak their export chiefly consist, and may be esteemed a very important branch of commerce. It is said, and with some appearance of knowlege, that the fir alone returns a million of rixdollars, i. e. 200,000 l. sterling yearly, which is perhaps more than the balance of trade in favour of any maritime country in Europe; and it is generally presumed, that the fisheries produce sufficient to balance the imports and pay the taxes. The mountains are burthened with a treasure, which tho' but sparingly extracted, answer many important purposes, both as to export and domestic use; and if so extended a country does not every where shine in affluence, there is in all their towns the appearance of moderate wealth.

The kingdom of Norway is divided into four capital provinces, and those again into a number of lesser districts, each have their magistrate according to their degree or extent, and a general Stadtholder or Viceroy govern the whole.

The principal towns are, Christiana, the metropolis where the vice Stadtholder, the Governor of
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the province, and the Bishop of the Diocese reside; and here the high Courts of Judicature and general provincial Courts are held. The city is regularly built, of a considerable extent, and carries on a great trade. The chief town besides in this district is Koninsburg, the great mine town and general mint of the kingdom; the silver mines here were discovered 1623, upon which this town was immediately built, and peopled with German miners: in 1751 forty shafts were sunk, and twelve veins wrought, which employs 35,000 officers, artificers, and labourers, but what the clear profit may be is at present a secret. Pure silver is sometimes extracted, and some slight stratas of gold have been hit upon, from which in 1647 some ducats were coined: in 1697 one other small vein was discovered, and more ducats coined; both these coinages are chiefly preserved in the cabinets of the curious; on the first coined is inscribed *vide mira Domini*. On the latter reverse, *von mitternacht kommt gold*, Konigsburg December 1, 1697.

The next province is Christiansand, particularly remarkable for its plenty of iron mines, and the romantic little town of Arudal, or, as we speak it, Arundel: it is seated on a rock in the middle of the river Nid, about five miles below the great water-fall of OEjestaadt. On the summit of this rock is a church, and on a rugged recline, is the greater part of the town built, the residue on piles
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in the water; the streets of the former, and ascent to the church, are steps hewn out of the solid rock, and the latter are formed by boats, on which they pass from one part to the other. The ships either lie by these bridges of boats to lade and unlade, or by a wharf formed at the foot of the rock, and in either places sufficient depth of water. The town has a good trade in timber, and the inhabitants employ many ships.

The third capital province is Bergen, from the principal town of the same name, the largest city, and port, of the greatest trade in Norway; which as to the exports, chiefly consists in fish, tallow, hides and timber; it is seated on the continent in a valley, on the margin of a little Bay, which form it takes, running on the edges in a semicircle; nature has fortified it by land with inaccessible mountains, and towards the harbour, with strong and well finished redoubts. The English fleet attempted this port 1665, but without success.

The fourth capital province is Drontheim, and the most northerly, it borders on Sweden and Russian Lapland, and is separated from the former by the high mountains of Kolen.

Drontheim, the capital of the province, and where the governor resides, is seated on the river Nid, which almost environs it, and was formerly the residence of the Norwegian Kings; it is well fortified,

fortified, and commands a pretty extensive trade, in fish, tallow, hides, timber and copper.

Upon this coast run a large range of little islands, as has been pre-mentioned; between two of them, the Moskœ and Moskoenas, is the famous Moskoestram, stream, gulph, or eddy; which, like the whim of Scylla and Charybdis amongst the ancients, swallows up ships, tho' it be very true, that seamen with great caution avoid them, because not only the currents are very strong, but by the disposition of the islands so varied, as to form an amazing confusion of eddies, which would be mischievous enough to shipping happening to fall within their vortex; and of this may be conceived some distant idea, from what we observe at certain times under London Bridge, and the idea raised to a multiplied concatenation of the like eddies, violently driving on each other, which is all the wonderful mystery of the Moskoenas or Maalstrom.

To Norway, according to the order of government in Denmark, are annexed the isles of Ferroë, Iceland and Greenland.

The Ferroës are twenty-five in number, in the medium of 61 30, about one hundred and fifty leagues west of Norway; fifteen of these are inhabited, and tho' the soil is shallow, are said to produce excellent grain, and to pasture large flocks of sheep, in which the wealth of the inhabitants principally consist.

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The commodities they export are, salted mutton, goose quills, feathers, Eider down, tallow, knit woollen waistcoats, caps and hose; and are under the governor of Iceland.

It is remarkable in most northern countries, and from a very natural cause, animals become white, but in these islands that order is inverted, and the sheep brought here white soon turn black. And amongst these islands, and I presume from the like cause, is a more dangerous whirlpool than that of the Maalfstrom.

Iceland, is a country of something more consequence, and the trade of it a monopoly, by charter 1738.

The products of this island for export are, dried fish, beef, salted mutton, butter, train oil, tallow, wadmal jackets, woollen hose and gloves, red wool, sheep skins and lamb, fox-tails, feathers and quills, and 25 sail of ships are constantly employed in the commerce of this island; and to encourage it, in 1751, the King made the inhabitants a present of 10,000 rixdollars, besides a loan of 5,000 more.

Greenland is hardly any otherwise worth noting, than as it is claimed by the crown of Denmark, and some colonies planted upon to no material effect. The fishery for whale and seal is common alike to all nations; and it is otherwise of very little consideration in whom the property vests.

The Government of DENMARK.

UNDER this general head are included all the dominions of this crown; for since it became hereditary, one absolute power directs the motion of the whole, and this in the royal breast alone; but as advice is always requisite in affairs of any importance, and as council may or may not be adhered to, at the Sovereign's pleasure, a Privy Council is here established, attended by such as have the principal places at Court, the secretaries of state, and such others as may be occasionally necessary to be consulted on the dispositions of their respective departments.

The secretaries of state here, are not as ours, a kind of prime ministers, but as ours were, in the early reign of Henry VIII. a sort of principal clerks or notaries, to write down what may be dictated to them, from the Sovereign or his ministers, and to memorise the general determinations of the council.

All dictates of this kind equally respect the whole circle of the royal dominions, and operate as edicts against which is no appeal, and Norway as immediately under the dictature of this council, as Denmark, or any of the King's exterior royalties.

Norway is under this council governed by what the people of southern Europe call a Viceroy, we a Lord Lieutenant, and Denmark a Stadt-
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holder, he is usually of the royal blood ; is one of the Privy Council, but seldom if ever permitted to see his government, but only to receive the profits ; his deputy resides at Christiana, and has under him four provincials, and a great number of inferior magistrates, accountable in order to their respective superiors, and all immediately answerable in special cases to the King.

The principal islands adjacent to Zealand are usually under the general Governor of North Jutland, and some are distinct governments, and, as South Jutland, a particular Governor.

The laws of this country merit, for their brevity and perspicuity, the esteem of mankind, calculated to avoid all kind of litigious chicanery and trick, so common to England, and many other countries ; and such plain laws, in some measure, counterbalance the loss of liberty, as the conduct of the law, in most countries, is a yoke upon the necks of the people, as intimates the most abject slavery.

My Lord Moleworth on the same subject makes a very apt remark, on its being objected that the creation of such concise laws, and the small expence of the proceedings, was chiefly owing to the poverty of the country ; “ it is not denied, and perhaps a right sense of this was the first cause of so good a regulation of Justice, for since the King was resolved to empty the pockets of his subjects, it was not for his advantage to suffer others to do it, and share the gains with him. Thus much may
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with certainty be averred, that the like regulation would not only agree with, but consummate the happiness of a free country, and this instance of Denmark makes it evident, that such a regulation is practicable."

By his Lordship's leave, it is rather practicable, than probable, and naturally brings to one's mind, a certain circumstance at Paris, where a number of associate poor, that serve the city with water in buckets, are so much a match for the King and his army, as not to permit the water to be laid into the houses in the like convenient manner as in London, tho' often proposed; and I am apprehensive, that in a similar case, our lawyers would aptly imitate the Parisian water-carriers.

The laws being so stated, makes a very singular distinction between Denmark and other absolute monarchies, as in some the laws are as perplexed and litigious as in England, in others entirely discretionary in the breast of the magistrate, and others a medley of both discretion and perplexity; so that these concise laws are an express rule of conduct, and may be esteemed a very singular and distinguished happiness to the subjects of Denmark, in which they may be said to excel all other nations.

Their Courts, in the ordinary course of proceeding, are of three divisions; each of them empowered to give a definitive sentence in all cases between man and man, and from each of these an appeal to the next superior, but the parties may not in any begin again.

In cities and towns, the lower Courts are the by-fought, in the country the herreds-fought, both much resembling our manor and sheriffs Courts; from these lies an appeal to the burghers in towns, and to the provincial Courts in the country, and the last appeal to the high right, where the King himself sits sometimes in person, and resembles our Chancery in every thing but time and expence; and the usual cause of this last appeal, is when any dispute presents, for the decision of which, no positive article is to be found in the law, which rarely happens, it is then in the high right to determine, from which there is no appeal.

In respect to the revenue, the Rent Chamber resembles our Exchequer, and the Court is composed of some members of the Chamber, the Admiralty, and the College of Commerce; and here is heard and determined the appeal of merchants, when goods happen to be seized by the King's officers.

The salaries of the judges are but small, and are paid out of the Exchequer, and have no dependence on fees. In towns, it is one hundred rixdollars paid out of confiscations; in the country, they have the produce of a farm, rated at ten tuns of hard corn; and for each sentence, ten strivers from both plaintiff and defendant, in cities double that sum.

In these Courts the judge in his sentence inserts the law on the point in debate, and the reason on which

which his judgment is founded, but in the high right no reason is given, or but very seldom.

As the laws are so plain, every man may plead his own cause if he pleases; but as he may not be able, and also poor, the magistrates take care to find them proper advocates; upon the whole, the charges of the law are very easy, tho' stamp paper runs sometimes very high, as a complaint may go through the three Courts for fifty rixdollars, unless the sum in contest be very large, which is only equal to ten pounds sterling. And however the cheapness may be presumed to encourage law-suits, the plainness of the laws utterly impede all litigious prosecutions.

In criminal cases, the business is usually within a very narrow compass, and commonly centers in theft and manslaughter, and execution done on offenders at one stroke with the sword.

At Copenhagen, in respect to the oeconomy of the city, a Policy Master presides, who inspects provisions, and all kind of merchantable wares, keeps the streets in good order, and takes particular care that sufficient bread corn be provided at a moderate price; and in cases of fire, that assistance be always at hand, and none but what he provides presume to interfere; a circumstance meriting the attention of every well ordered government.

There is one other circumstance, which is very singular, and equally worthy notoriety; there are but two Apothecaries allowed in Copenhagen, appoint-

appointed by the College of Physicians, and by the King; at certain times their drugs are regularly examined by proper judges, and tho' they always take ready money, at fixt prices for all they sell, yet are they obliged to note down in a book every particular, and to whom the same is dispensed, by which means all drugs so dispensed are perfectly good, and no danger of wilful or accidental poisonings. When my Lord Molesworth wrote 1692, the trade of Denmark very low, and consequently circulating cash was very scarce, besides which, there was neither a general, nor an assignation, or loan bank, neither an exchange calculated to take goods off from the hands of the manufacturers, or perhaps not many manufactures for the market; money was every day varying its nominal, and no man safe in taking it for a week together, in which deplorable situation no wonder that specie of value was scarce, as most of it went to the foreign banks, and few seemed willing to appear to have money. Since which time, several wise and judicious regulations have taken place, and the whole form of civil policy seems to have been turned to public utility; and I doubt not, but a man on a proper occasion might pick up a thousand pounds in Copenhagen, as readily as in London; so that whoever reads of Denmark as it appeared in 1692, and supposes it the same still, will be strangely deceived in the state and condition of that thriving monarchy.

The government of Denmark, in respect to religion, has been as much varied as other political branches. Before the reformation, the clergy's power was too high for the regality; and tho' between that and the famous revolution, the priests retained some share of power and influence, they are since that time the meer tools of the Court, and their preferment entirely depends on their ruling the politicks, as well as directing the morals of the people; but they are neither employed in civil affairs, entertained at Court, or at the tables of the great, where grace is always pronounced by a menial servant; nor must they in their pulpits, or otherwise, interfere in political matters, other than praying for the King, and exhorting the people to passive obedience.

Instead of Archbishops and Bishops as formerly, is constituted a superintendency, and within the Danish dominions there are ten who preside in this new ordination, and each, as in episcopacy, have their distinct diocess, one in Zealand, one in Funen, four in Jutland, and four in Norway.

They have not any temporalities, hold not any ecclesiastical courts, no cathedrals with dean and chapters, but are very properly employed inspecting the conduct of the inferior clergy and people. The superintendent of Copenhagen seems to have the supreme dictature, somewhat resembling an Archbishop or Primate, and receives from the crown a salary of two thousand rixdollars, exactly
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the par of four hundred pounds sterling, and may, considering the country, be deemed equal to one thousand pounds; those of Jutland and Funen fifteen hundred rixdollars; and those of Norway one thousand; a calculation extremely well conceived, and on which each in his station can live very genteel, and their condition nearly equal, notwithstanding the seeming difference of their respective salaries.

It may possibly be from the nature of the government, that the tempers and dispositions of all ranks of people are in a kind of equilibrium, so that as you, on the one hand, meet with but few of extraordinary or shining talents, on the other hand, as few appear in the characters of madmen, fools, or enthusiasts, every one keeping the beaten road of common sense, and but rarely adventuring out of that useful track, which calculates them at once for every branch of social happiness, and for the laudable pursuit of plain honest industry, by which, if they do not acquire great wealth, they gain what is perhaps better, competence and content. In their marriages there seems something particular, if it be true, that hardly coincides with this placid character, which is, that it is common and allowable to be as free with their mistresses before, as after marriage, and that it is sufficient the ceremony takes place before the woman be delivered; but if it be so, I suppose it to be the rule of government, that under such engagement the man must marry.

